

“The BIG TEN ~ 7<sup>th</sup> commandment” 5.16.10

I read about a woman in her final days...

- Who went to have her portrait painted & she made this odd request:
- The woman asked the painter to add a large diamond necklace, + a brilliant tennis bracelet covered with fine jewels + matching earrings.
- The artist replied, “I would be glad to do that BUT WHY?”
- The woman explained, “Well you see, I’m dying. I don’t have much time left & I know that my husband is already seeing another woman; I know that after I die, he will marry her.”
- I want him to have this portrait of me because I want his new wife to spend the rest of her life looking for this jewelry ☺

This brings us to the 7<sup>th</sup> command in the ‘BIG TEN.’

- I. 7<sup>th</sup> commandment = “You must not commit adultery.”
  - A. (R) Exodus 20: 14 or p. 59 in pew Bible
  - B. We strongly believe...
    1. That in the beginning of human history, God made us (male & female).
      - a. That our distinctive sexuality (masculinity & femininity) is God’s idea + His creation. We also believe...
      - b. God instituted marriage = His idea not ours; for the mutual fulfillment of both partners as well as for the procreation of children.
      - c. God set forth these specific guidelines in order to protect us: Sex was GOD’S IDEA & was intended from the beginning to be exclusively confined to a heterosexual marriage; any exceptions to this original idea is a deviation from scripture ~ God’s holy intent.

C. Culturally confusing ~ Culturally misinterpreted

Allow me to interpret

1. It means = ‘YOU MUST NOT’...
  - a. Mess with another man’s wife ~ ...you must not casually
  - b. ‘HOOK – UP’ ~ ...you must not have
  - c. Friends with Benefits ~ ...you must not engage

Cohabitation ~ living together before marriage violates God’s word.

It’s cruel in nature, arousing in one’s partner a desire for a long-term relationship that the other is not prepared to fulfill.

WHY all these prohibitions against any SEXUAL ACTIVITY outside the confines of heterosexual marriage?

Because God created SEX for a husband & wife to experience pleasure & to become spiritually one flesh ~ anything less cheapens God’s intent!

I suspect this is not new information for most of you; so allow me to appeal to the PRACTICAL SIDE of the 7<sup>th</sup> command: (Yrs & Yrs of witnessing heart-ache 1<sup>st</sup> hand in counseling)

- II. (5) reasons not to have an affair:
- A. 1<sup>st</sup> reason not too = You will REGRET IT when its over.
- B. 2<sup>nd</sup> reason not too = Many people WILL BE HURT.
1. Destructive aftermath is overwhelming ~ causalities of carelessness
  2. When the affair is revealed (it will be) not a matter of if but when; try to imagine who in your life will not suffer.
    - a. Children + immediate family + close friends
    - b. Casual acquaintances + anybody in your span of care & influence
  3. Harsh reality ~ how many people would suffer if I chose this path=into 1000's? My prayer is: God will take my life before I ever dishonor Him or my wife.
- C. 3<sup>rd</sup> reason not too = It will END BADLY.
1. It always does. Your heart will be broken or your family will be broken, or your life will be broken.
  2. Never forget my assistant in Tucson; night before her wedding her dad pulled me & her husband to be aside & told us his nightmare experience.
    - a. Married less than (2) yrs = business trip; lonely @ bar picked up a woman & he said, "I ruined my life for 6 to 8 minutes of pleasure ☹"
    - b. I forever broke my wife's & families trust ~ "I so wish I could..."
- D. 4<sup>th</sup> reason not to = YOU PROMISED you would be faithful.
1. Remember your wedding day?
  2. Remember your VOWS when you promised to always be faithful to her as long as both of you shall live?
  3. Remember those vows were not only made before your spouse but were also made in the very presence of God.
- E. 5<sup>th</sup> reason not too = is the pasture IS NOT ALWAYS greener! rationalizing & justifying it will never make it right
1. Wedding lie = "I thought I meant it at the time, but I didn't."
 

Love is a choice ~ a daily choice to love unconditionally!
  2. Feelings lie = "God wants me to be happy. I know divorce is wrong, but my marriage is miserable."
    - a. This is a fact: God places the value of obedience before happiness.
    - b. Only in obedience will you find joy!

Psalm 16: 11, "You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence & the pleasures of living with me forever."
  3. Support lie = most dangerous lie of all.
    - a. The guilty party can easily find a group of friends who will say, "You deserve to have a little fun, a little pleasure."
    - b. Guilty party can always find friends who can support their poor choice;

Be cautious: sinful sympathizers are from Satan = dime a dozen ☹

So, how do we avoid breaking the 7<sup>th</sup> commandment?

III. Jesus re-defines the 7<sup>th</sup> commandment

A. (R) Matthew 5: 27 – 28 or 736 in pew Bible

- Once again the Pharisee's had reduced the 7<sup>th</sup> Commandment, "You must not commit adultery," down to its most elementary form, limiting it to abstaining from the very act of adultery itself.
- Original word for lust means to mishandle /mismanage /or to have a misdirected sexual desire or fantasy.
- INSERT St. Petersburg Zoo in Russia
- Changes the rules of interpretation – Jesus' pt. is, if you think you are sexually perfect & need no repentance because you have not engaged in physical activity – THINK again.
- In the Kingdom of God we can commit murder with our words & we can commit adultery with our minds = re(R) Matthew 5: 28
  - LUST is an all-conclusive problem.

Whose sexuality is not marred by the FALL?

- Maybe you are tempted to escape from your spouse & fantasize about someone else in inappropriate ways.
- Maybe you carry around deep guilt because of this issue:
- Maybe you had an affair? Maybe you struggle w/some sexual addiction?
- Maybe the truth is today, you are kind a drifting towards disaster one way or the other, kind a playing games.
- JUST maybe you have crossed some lines you should have never crossed.

Some of you carry deep burdens & guilt in this area; LISTEN YOU are not by yourself!

There is nothing that you have done so bad that it can't be covered by the precious blood of Jesus that was shed on the cross.

B. (R) Matthew 5: 29 – 30 = Jesus' Plan of Defense

- The Greek word "causes you to sin, is a strong word. It is (scan da lid zo). Do you know what word we get from this? SCANDAL that leads to sin! Listen to Jesus words...
- v. 29 says, "If your eye cause you to sin – take a very sharp knife & gouge it out , place in hefty bag by the curb to be taken away.
- v. 30 says, "if your hand causes you to sin," Same Drill

What is Jesus up to here? You want to be real clear on this!

☹ Jesus is NOT recommending self mutilation for sin - management

Jesus is using humor to show the absurdity of the way Scribes & Pharisees understand & practice righteousness.

### C. Religious leaders limited understanding of righteousness

- Scribes & Pharisees would say something like this, “the law is satisfied as long as you avoid sinning.”
  - Reasoning & logic – If you had not sinned physically = righteousness.
  - Therefore, if looking @ a woman causes you to sin; DON'T look @ a woman...Religious types took this real serious.
  - In Jesus' day, when a woman left her house in Jerusalem she was required by law to wear (2) veils & a hair net w/ribbons in effort for her features not to be recognized. Believed if she uncovered her face w/hair down men would go Hog Wild ☺
  - If a woman did not observe these strict modesty codes; her husband could legally divorce her.
  - There is writing from a woman in the 1st century who records “that beams of her house have never seen the hair of my head.” Indicates this woman never undid her hair in the privacy of her own home ☺
  - Middle ages, their were monks who would lived in isolation & they would keep journals on how many years since they had seen a woman's face.
  - Jesus answers w/some humor – if not looking @ a woman makes you righteous, if your eyes are the problem, then go all the way – CUT THEM OUT.

Because of course – Your eyes & hand are not the problem!

The core of your problem is your ♥, your inmost being, your thoughts & desires.

☆ God doesn't want to destroy your ability to see & touch or your sexuality. He wants to REDEEM them!

I John 1: 9 encourages us,

“If we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful & just to cleanse us from every wrong!”