



Lecture # 8 Part 1

The Ten Commandments, The Laws Governing Man's Duty To Others (Part 7): Commandment Seven Concerns Man's Family—Never Commit Adultery or Immorality, Exodus 20:14

The Seventh Commandment The Sanctity of Marriage “Lo Tineaf” (Exodus 20:14) “Thou shalt not commit adultery”

Exodus 20:14 (BHS)

¹⁴ לֹא תִנְאֵף: ס

Lo Tineaf

Exodus 20:14 (KJV)

¹⁴ “Thou shalt not commit **adultery.**”

Exodus 20:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ “You shall not commit **adultery.**”

2. (Exodus 20:14) Commandments, The Ten— Adultery— Immorality— Sex, Illicit— Morality— Marriage: What is forbidden by this seventh commandment.

Exodus 20:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ “You shall not commit adultery.”

“You shall not commit adultery” (Exodus 20:14)? How is this commandment broken, violated?

1. Adultery (*naap*) [“*niuf*”] or *adulterate* means “to debase, to corrupt oneself sexually, to make oneself impure sexually, to have sex outside of marriage.” What God is saying is simple, unqualified, and irrevocable: “**You shall not commit adultery: you shall not debase yourself, corrupt yourself, nor make yourself impure sexually. You shall not have sex outside of marriage.**”

a. Scripture teaches that a person becomes sexually impure **in at least three ways:**

1. A person has sex with someone other than his or her spouse. This is what is commonly called **adultery.**
2. A person has sex before marriage. This is called **fornication.** Fornication refers to any sexual immorality, either before marriage or after marriage.
3. A person fantasizes and lusts after a person other than his or her spouse, allows his mind and heart to be set upon another person.



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- b. Note that the sin of adultery embraces all that leads up to the act of sex, not just the sexual act itself. Adultery is far more than just being sexually unfaithful in marriage.

This commandment forbids any immoral thought or act.....

1. that makes a person impure for marriage
2. that spots or dirties a person's marriage
3. that causes a person to lose his or her virginity
4. that keeps a person from being able to offer himself or herself as a pure virgin when married

Illicit sex is a violation against the marriage to be. Illicit sex impurities, corrupts, spots, and makes a person impure either before or after marriage.

- c. The thought life of a person is important when dealing with adultery. Adultery is committed in the heart long before the act is committed. Always keep in mind that God's law is spiritual; therefore His law deals with the thoughts of our mind and heart. This commandment forbids committing adultery in the heart.

A person is.....

1. not to prostitute his thoughts and imaginations
2. not to allow impure, lustful thoughts
3. not to indulge in illicit fantasies

2. The meaning of adultery was expanded by the Lord Jesus Christ, by God's Son Himself. Christ taught that this commandment means far more than just committing the act of adultery. He enlarged the commandment to include **thoughts** and **lusts**, to include the second look when a person is dressed to sexually attract or expose his or her body.

Matthew 5:27-30 (NASB)

²⁷ "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY';

²⁸ but I say to you that everyone who **looks at a woman** with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

²⁹ If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

³⁰ If your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to go into hell."

3. Now, what causes adultery and immorality? There are no doubt many causes, but we can perhaps summarize them all under the following five categories.

- a. Immorality is caused by corrupt moral standards or a lack of moral standards.



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Some people have never been taught nor are they aware that sex outside of marriage is wrong in the sight of God. Their society has become so corrupted down through the ages that belief in the true and living God has been lost as well as the sanctity of sex and marriage.

- b. Immorality is caused by lax or liberal moral standards, or by a selfish, worldly, immoral lifestyle. These people either ignore or deny God's commandment, choosing to live as they wish.
- c. Immorality is caused by the need for companionship, attention, or love or by the need for appreciation or fulfillment. Many people reach out to others because of these very basic needs. This is especially true during marriage when a husband or wife fails to meet these needs in his or her spouse.
- d. Immorality is caused by anger, hostility, or the seeking of revenge. A host of behaviors can anger a person and arouse him to commit adultery, such things as coldness, indifference, neglect, a biting tongue, harshness, selfishness.
- e. Immorality is caused by poor ego strength or by an inflated ego, by a lack of self-esteem or self-worth, by a need to feel important, or by the challenge and conquest of the affair. The most intimate thing a person can give to another is his or her body. Therefore, sex is a challenge or conquest for many people; it is an ego booster, an act that either builds a person's feelings of importance or adds to his or her trophy case of conquests.

Sex is a very normal, natural act, a most precious and cherished act given by God. God has built the desire for sex into the very nature of man. In fact, sex is the most intimate experience God has chosen for man to nourish the great virtues of life and to propagate the human race. But the depraved, sinful heart of man has corrupted sex, so much so that man has developed a sex-crazed society.

In very practical terms, immorality is caused.....

1. by ignoring or denying God and His Word
2. by ignoring right vs. wrong
3. by lack of teaching and training
4. by unsatisfying, inadequate sex with a spouse
5. by coldness, the alienation of husband or wife
6. by living in a dream or fantasy world due to such things as pornography, films, or suggestive music
7. by not guarding relationships, by getting too close and becoming attracted to a person
8. by not guarding against loneliness, emptiness, or the disappointment in one's spouse or loved one

4. Now, why does God forbid adultery? Prohibit immorality? What is God's purpose, His reason for giving this commandment? Keep in mind what is stated above: the experience of sex is a gift to man, a gift given by God.