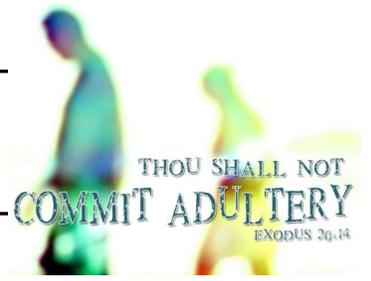


# The Sixth Commandment



## Introduction

Even if you're not married, you can live in a way that shows you respect marriage and the God who instituted it. Marriage is under heavy attack by our society today, but what does God's Word say about it? We'll look at that in this lesson.

Opening Prayer: *Heavenly Father, I have indeed transgressed your commandments. I have been impatient in trials. I am unsympathetic and unmerciful. I do not help my neighbor. I am unable to resist sin. I do not tire of doing wrong. Dear Lord, pour out your grace on me and give me your Holy Spirit to help me to avoid ruining in any way the blessings of sex and marriage that you may intend for me and my future spouse to know and enjoy. Help me to be pure and decent in what I think and say and do that I might serve you. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

**Lesson Aim:** How does God want us to keep his gifts of sex and marriage pure?

## Part One

Read Exodus 20:14.

- 1) What is the Sixth Commandment?
- 2) What is adultery?

Read Genesis 2:15-25.

- 3) What observation did God make about the man in verse 18?
- 4) What does this observation reveal about the way God created human beings to be?
- 5) How then does God lead Adam to see his need for a companion?
- 6) What does God then do for man?
- 7) Notice that God brings Adam and Eve together. What lesson might you see there for us?
- 8) What does verse 24 teach about a married couple's relationship with their parents as well as their relationship with each other?

Read Matthew 19:1-9.

- 9) What sin against God's gift of marriage does Jesus address in these verses?
- 10) Jesus reminds these Pharisees that marriage was instituted by whom?
- 11) How long does God want every marriage to last?
- 12) Does God permit divorce?

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8.

- 13) What does it mean to control your own body, or learn to live with a spouse (see v.4 footnote in Bible), in a way that is holy and honorable?
- 14) How might someone wrong, or take advantage of, a brother or sister in the matter of finding a spouse?
- 15) Why do we need to keep our distance from situations that tempt us into sexual immorality?
- 16) Where are those temptations in our society?
- 17) Whose will must prevail in our attitudes about sex and marriage?
- 18) Define marriage.

**KEY POINT 1** - God teaches us that he wants marriage to be the lifelong union of one man and one woman—a union that God blesses with some wonderful gifts.

**What I've learned so far:**

## Part Two

Read Genesis 39:1-12.

- 1) Joseph was an attractive young man. Because of this, what did his boss's wife want him to do?
- 2) Look at Joseph's explanation for refusing. What is at the heart of his refusal?
- 3) How often did these advances happen?
- 4) How did Joseph deal with this?
- 5) Even when she grabbed his outer cloak, what did Joseph do?
- 6) How did Joseph, as an unmarried man, honor God and marriage?
- 7) How did his boss's wife dishonor God and marriage?

Read 2 Samuel 11:1-5.

- 8) We're told that Bathsheba was beautiful. What should David have done when he saw of her bathing?
- 9) Instead of turning away from the temptation, what did David do?
- 10) How does David's servant try to warn him?
- 11) David commits adultery with Bathsheba anyway. What happens next?

12) Was Bathsheba also guilty of wrongdoing through this whole affair?

13) 2 Samuel 11:27 says, "The thing David had done displeased the LORD." How had David dishonored God and marriage?

Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-20.

14) List the lifestyles that are said will not inherit the kingdom of God.

15) What is sexual immorality?

16) Since the body is meant for the Lord, what is it not meant for?

Read Ephesians 5.

17) According to this chapter, list how both married and unmarried people sin against God's gift of sex.

18) What attitudes are husbands and wives to have toward each other?

19) What is love?

20) How does God want us to keep his gift of sex and marriage pure?

**KEY POINT 2** - God wants me—married or single—to always keep his gifts of sex and marriage pure in every way.

**What I've learned so far:**

## Part Three

Study questions 87-98 in the Catechism and answer the following questions in your own words.

1) What is the basic subject of the Sixth Commandment?

2) List how one might sin against the Sixth Commandment.

3) How will our love and thanks to Jesus lead us to live in regard to this commandment?

Helpful Passages

Matthew 5:27-28—Oh how constantly and rampantly we can run over the Sixth Commandment!

Romans 7:2

Who has the right to end a marriage, and how is that done?

Hebrews 13:4—How many more ways can God say it and make it clear in his Word?

Philippians 4:8 and 2 Timothy 2:22—Flee your evil desires and follow God's desires for you and the blessings he's given you.

**Main point — God wants us—whether married or single—to keep his blessings of sex and marriage pure by honoring them as intended as a life-long union of one man and one woman.**

Final considerations:

If the Milton Bradley Company asked you to create a game, you would have the right to make the rules and guidelines by which the game is to be played. That way the game serves its intended purpose and is played the way it's supposed to be played. God created marriage, and he also made the rules, or guidelines, for it so marriage would serve its intended purpose and the man and the woman would be happy in their marriage. Marriage isn't a game. God's rules say that only one man and one woman are to participate in a marriage. Any variation is an abomination in his sight.

1) How does this commandment flow from the ones that come before it?

Agree or Disagree:

- 2) \_\_\_ According to God's design and intention, in any marriage the husband is the head of the household, and the wife is the husband's gift from God.
- 3) \_\_\_ The only way a Christian can be sure of a happy marriage is to marry a someone with their same faith.
- 4) \_\_\_ Sex is a gift from God, and is not, therefore, wrong if practiced properly.
- 5) \_\_\_ Bad company is one thing more than any other that leads people to sin against this commandment.
- 6) \_\_\_ When two people willingly have sexual intercourse, they are, in effect, joining themselves in marriage.
- 7) \_\_\_ Mature Christian faith shows itself in wanting to follow Jesus and his will, not the will of human friends.
- 8) \_\_\_ Husbands should love their wives the same way Christ loves you.
- 9) \_\_\_ Adultery, as used in the Sixth Commandment, refers to all kinds of sexual sins, whether they be of thought, word, or deed, and whether they be committed by one who is married or unmarried.
- 10) \_\_\_ A Christian may in good conscience divorce an unfaithful partner.
- 11) \_\_\_ You can dress any way you want to. If people gawk and lust after you, it's their own fault.
- 12) \_\_\_ Homosexual marriage is okay as long as both persons are loving and committed to each other.
- 13) \_\_\_ Thoughts of lust are okay as long as they do not lead to sinful actions.
- 14) \_\_\_ Sex is a great and special blessing when used according to God's will.
- 15) \_\_\_ If love and commitment are there, sex before marriage is okay.
- 16) \_\_\_ Every sin you ever commit harms your spiritual condition and puts your salvation at risk.
- 17) \_\_\_ The Sixth Commandment will apply to you when you're married. ?
- 18) \_\_\_ God doesn't want us to talk about or think about sex.
- 19) \_\_\_ If two people love each other, they should have sex.
- 20) \_\_\_ If two people love each other, they should get married.
- 21) \_\_\_ You can be married without having a wedding.
- 22) \_\_\_ God created man and woman holy, but sex makes us dirty.
- 23) \_\_\_ Homosexuality is condemned in Scripture.
- 24) \_\_\_ Engagement is tantamount to marriage.
- 25) \_\_\_ God wants sex to be enjoyed.



### **Commit to Memory:**

- The Sixth Commandment with Luther's explanation.
- Marriage—Genesis 2, Ephesians 5
  - Sex—1 Corinthians 6
- The Ten Commandments—Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5

**What I've learned:**