

Section: Commands: Law

**TEACHING NOTES**

**Lesson 42 <> Question 51 “You shall not commit adultery?”**

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**Q51. Why does God give the seventh commandment: You shall not commit adultery?**

So we will love others from a faithful and pure heart.

I am thankful to get to teach on the Seventh Commandment tonight and why it is for our good and God’s glory that we obey it.

* The Seventh Commandment is in the second part of the 10 commandments, (AKA as the Decalogue). Remember that the first part is how we are to interact with God, and the second part is how we are to interact with others. We must always remember that the second part (our interacting with others) always flows out of the first part (our interacting with God). We interact with others in a right way when we love God first and worship Him above all else.
* The 10 commandments are the summary of the eternal more law of God. Therefore, what many of the 10 commandments do is give us a view of the worst kind of sinning that moral law is trying to legislate. So murdering someone is the worst kind of way you break the 6th commandment but as we studied last week, it’s scope is wider and deeper than that. We see Jesus teach us later that being “sinfully angry” breaks the 6th commandment.

**Matthew 5:21-22** “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment;…

So, it is with the seventh commandment. While Adultery is a most grievous and hurtful way to betray your life long commitment to your spouse it is not the only thing God has in mind when we calls us to love others from a faithful and pure heart. We will see tonight that there are many ways we can be unfaithful and or act in impurity. For married and single people, young and old, male and female. This commandment is a beautiful gift from God to help us avoid sin and to honor Him by loving others from a faithful and pure heart.

Tonight I want to help us understand:

1. **What is Adultery and what are it’s layers of prohibition?**
2. **What are the consequences of breaking the 7th Commandment?**
3. **What is Spiritual Adultery?**
4. **What are the practical applications of “loving others from a faithful and pure heart” today?**
5. **What is Adultery**

Let’s first consider a few simple definitions for Adultery.

**Adultery (moicheuō)**is the unlawful betrayal of the marriage covenant by any form of sexual intimacy or engagement with someone who is not your spouse.

**Adultery:** unauthorized sexual conduct with someone who is not your spouse or with someone who has a spouse

**The act of adultery is specifically a betrayal the bond of marriage.**

In other words, adultery, in specific, requires by definition that one of the parties are bound by God to the covenant of marriage.

This means that while sexual thought or action by someone who is not married or with someone who is not married is not adultery **it is sexual sin** and **prohibited by God** under the umbrella of this commandment other commandments found in scripture.

Before we get to the other layers of what God is prohibiting here let’s look specifically at the sin of adultery and why it is sin and is not loving or pure.

What is being held high in this commandment is the honoring of God’s perfect design for mankind to love others and to be pure in heart or deed. Adultery in specific betrays God’s creation ordinance and divine purpose for Marriage.

Marriage is a covenant relationship whereby God joins together one man and one woman into a one-flesh union designed to be faithful and last until the couple is separated by death. – WOTC Q29

While I don’t have time to review all the good design and purpose of God for marriage I do want to remind us what Paul makes clear in **Ephesians 5:31-32**“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” 32This mystery is profound, and *I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.*

One man and one woman are joined by God into a “one flesh” union designed to be faithful and last unto God separates the marriage union by death. This is God’s beautiful design for marriage.

It is only in the covenant of marriage that God has designed sexual intimacy to happen. When in this context it glorifies God and is a wonderful way to love and be bound to your spouse. When it is outside of this context sexual thought and action is wildly destructive to self and to others.

The purpose of Marriage is bigger than love or companionship or family or any of the other horizontal things we often make it ultimately about. Instead, Marriage as Paul states in Ephesians is ultimately about gospel testimony of Christ and his bride the church.

We tell the truth about Christ and the church, we honor God and his good design for marriage by **NOT adulterating our marriage covenant by engaging in sexual thought or deed with anyone who is not our spouse.**

Now, to adulterate or to not adulterate is not to be weighed with fleshly reasoning and based on fleshly longings or circumstances. **Why?** because our flesh is self-serving and our circumstances do not dictate faithfulness to the one God has made us into one flesh with. God’s design, purpose and command dictate our faithfulness to our marriage covenant.

The word **adulterate** means to corrupt, debase, or make impure by the addition of a foreign or inferior substance or element.

To corrupt, to cheat, from what God intends to be pure, the marriage covenant, and or our hearts/minds, is to sin.

It is to hurt self and others, it is to take or have something that is not yours to have.

It does NOT honor God and it does not tell the truth about the gospel of Christ and his bride.

It also is not loving.

This is the reason why our catechism answer is the way it is:

We do NOT commit adultery so that So we will love others from a faithful and pure heart.

We must understand that, God is not a buzz kill, a kill joy, or that he doesn’t want us to enjoy life.

No God is loving and pure and good and doesn’t want us to hurt, steal, take, break, betray, cheat and tear at our lives and the lives of others. He wants us to thrive in love and life as he has perfectly designed and in a way that glorifies Him.

Church, see the good in the commandant to not commit adultery. May we love and be thankful for the commands of God that keep us from harm and lead us to good and God honoring living.

Exodus and Deuteronomy state clearly the seventh commandment which is:

**Exodus 20:14** “You shall not commit adultery.”

This is a command or prohibition. This is an imperative command: Do not do this!

There is no optional language in this verse. There are no plausible situations where this is negated. This is clear, concise language. Don’t do this period, end of statement. At no point is it ok for you to do this.

The problem is, in sin someone might say,

*“I have made a special connection with this person;”*

*“My spouse did this to me so I can do it to them;”*

*“It is not that bad, and everybody is doing it;”*

*“I fell out of love;”*

*“I am not attracted to my spouse anymore;”*

*“I am just looking and not touching so it’s ok”*

The problem is that All of these are contrary to God’s explicit prohibition.

**Exodus 20:14** “You shall not commit adultery.”

What we must see is that betraying the marriage covenant is not just a matter of the physical body but also a matter of the physical mind and heart.

**We must see that committing adultery is more than sexual activity with someone who is not your spouse.** Many people can to commonly think, *“While I have been married, I have not had sexual relations with another person, nor have I had a relationship with a married person while I was single. So I am good; let me check off that box: command fulfilled.”*

This might seem like the case, but we will see in a moment, that this is only outward physical obedience, we must remember the law is spiritual too and therefore concerned with the heart (your inner most being) and therefor is applied to more than just marriage.

To help us with this..

The Westminster Shorter Catechism helps explain it’s greater width, **as it states that the 7th commandment forbids “all unchaste thoughts, words, and actions” (Q. 72).**

In other words, God’s intention is a call to genuine love for others and purity in heart and mind.

**This includes people who are not married as well.**

Jesus himself helps us see this in His famous Sermon on the Mount in …

***Matthew 5:27-30*** *“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 lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.*

Jesus helps us better understand the depth of 7th commandment and how it reveals a prohibition for all to not sin in thought or deed sexually by getting to the heart of the sin.

First, let’s note that Jesus does not abrogate or do away with the command, “Do not commit adultery.” Instead he shows us it’s greater scope.

Jesus is showing us that the betrayal is NOT only physical intimacy with someone who is not your spouse but it is the sin of lust that happens in the mind of any person for another.

**We are not being loving to others or living from a faithful and pure heart when we are engaging sexual thoughts or deeds with anyone outside of the covenant of marriage.**

Instead, **when we live out of the flesh in heart of deed we live selfishly and sinfully.**

It is important for to us to realize that God’s design for sexual intimacy is not

for fun, for self-pleasure, it is not for love, it is not for commitment.

**It is for the covenant of marriage only.**

Jesus tells us that this sin starts with a look or a thought that turns into a fixing on or a second look by which we lust after someone who is not our spouse.

Many will say that it is far easier to be single then to be married because single people do not have the same confines to purity and commitment that married people are bound to.

Have you ever heard it said, ***“one single guy says to a married guy, I can look but you can’t”.***

This is a wrong application of God’s heart and design for us.

It is sin for the married person and the single person to look at anther with lust in their eyes.

**Are the consequences potentially greater for the married person who betrays their marriage covenant?** yes. But both are in sin and not keeping the 7th commandment.

It is not loving and the heart is not faithful and pure if it is engaging in sexual thought or action outside of the covenant of marriage which is where God has designed this interaction to be had and enjoyed only.

Jesus pleads with us to take most seriously this common way our flesh can act out in sin. Notice how seriously Jesus is trying to emphasize this is for all of us, as He doesn’t prescribe a little tonic or that we are to deal lightly with it. He gives us extreme examples to show us how we need to go after this sin. ***Saying, Cut of your hand, pluck out your eye.***

Now, Jesus is not saying to literally do these things.

We know this because he just talked about the heart issue of adultery. It is out of the heart that the actions come forth. Jesus is speaking boldly here so we learn the weight of the need to lay the axe at the root, to get radical in dealing with this sin.

Jesus wants us to love others with a faithful and pure heart. Not to betray God and his design for the only place sexual thought or deed is to happen, In marriage.

We see that Jesus is telling us that a breaking of this command flows out of the heart.

When people commit adultery, it is not something that just comes upon them; they have sin in their lives that they are feeding.

The emotional and literal scars that sexual intimacy in thought or deed outside of marriage brings is as deep as it gets. And I have never seen anything in my years of counseling to be more true.

Paul agrees with Christ when he says,

**1 Cor. 6:18**Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. (NLT)

Brother/sister: **Do you take these things this seriously?**

This law is a blessing because it shows us our sinfulness; it shows us our hearts. Adultery of the heart is more than any of the physical acts because it shows us what is truly inside of us. It shows us the sin patterns that are deep in our life.

**So, let’s go deeper into the “heart issues” that break this 7th commandment.**

This is not an exhaustive list, but here are a few to consider with me:

The first being **Discontentment.**

Maybe it’sDiscontentmentwith where God has placed you or who your spouse is or your lack of a spouse. Jesus shows us that adultery in the heart is a person lusting after another, it’s coveting something that is not yours. This sinful root can also lead to other kinds of sexual sin, whereby we call God’s design for sexual intimacy to be between one woman and one man in marriage but the root sin of discontentment is what leads people to also look to lust after others of their own gender and or minors or even animals. The heart is desperately wicked and the root of discontentment leading to coveting what we shouldn’t is very real.

**Why do we covet?** Because we are not happy with (content with) what God has given us. We covet or desire other relationships because we think it will make life (or a moment in life) better for us.

When we are looking at someone with lust/desire in our hearts it is to use them for our own sinful desires, it is not desiring to bring about the glorification of God but to fill a fleshly longing.

When we look upon that person with desire, we are expecting them to bring us satisfaction to our own (sinful, discontent so-called) need. At this point it is all about me: he/she makes me feel so special; he/she makes me feel important; he or she listens to me.

You must see the layers of this is what is included in this commandment. Remember the law is spiritual: it reveals our hearts, and our hearts are desperately wicked. Instead we must be content ultimately in Christ. He then helps us rightly love and remain focused on our spouse alone or in being content if not married. If we are in Christ, then He alone completes us.

Another heart issue to consider is **Pride**.

In our sin we think we deserve happiness. We view ourselves as higher than we really are.

Pride is brought about by an incorrect view of who we are as creatures under the rule of God, and for believers, another layer of being in Christ.

Pride sees us as more than we are. It puffs up and brings expectation of what we think we deserve, which really brings about a host of expectations: I expect my spouse to do this; I’m doing all this work in our relationship, so I deserve this; my spouse should cater to this need; if this does not happen, because I deserve it I will go elsewhere and find it-- in my mind, another person, etc.

Or as a single person, we think we deserve to be satisfied. We are so arrogant to make any other person walking by or in view the slave of our sinful need. They exist to please us.

I want you to see the disregard this is for others. To turn another of God’s created ones into an object simply for our fleshly pleasure is arrogance at it’s best. This is not loving, it is not faithful and not pure.

Let me help us do better business with this commandment by slowing to consider that God takes this command so seriously that in the Old Covenant the punishment for adultery was death.

**2. What are the consequences of breaking the 7th Commandment**

**First in the Old Covenant:**

**Leviticus 20:10** “If a man commits adultery with the wife of his neighbor, both the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.

Adultery is so heinous that in the Old Covenant it was punishable by death.

Even the unmarried person who commits adultery with a married person is to be put to death

We see this again in:

**Deuteronomy 22:22** “If a man is found lying with the wife of another man, both of them shall die, the man who lay with the woman, and the woman. So you shall purge the evil from Israel.

In **Proverbs 5 & 6** Solomon, in love for his son, gives warning to the lure of sexual immorality and the ruin of life that engaging it brings.

**Proverbs 5:1-2 My son, be attentive to my wisdom; incline your ear to my understanding,**

**2 that you may keep discretion, and your lips may guard knowledge.**

Here, Solomon is driving home the need to be attentive to the counsel he is about to give. Lean in, son! Don’t miss this. You will surely need this.

**Proverbs 5:3** For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil,

What I have come to see in practical life is that the “lips of a forbidden woman” here can be any sexual temptation that is outside of God’s will for your life. It could be any person who is not your spouse (this applies to single people too). If they are not your spouse, then you have no business engaging them in heart, mind or deed.

It also can be any image or scene in a movie, or picture, or person walking by. It can surely be pornography. I have sat with many teens, men and women over the years in pastoral counsel to look to this proverb as a great help in their need to wage war on addiction to porn.

Solomon goes on to clarify how seductive sexually immoral things are.

**They “drip honey” & “her speech is smoother than oil”.**

In that culture, honey was the sweetest thing you could enjoy so it was very desirable. One who is smooth in speech is also very seductive and enticing. He is saying be alert and aware how entrapping her presentation is.

In verse 4 & 5, we are given insight into the reality of what she actually brings,

**Proverbs 5:4-5** but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword.

5 Her feet go down to death; her steps follow the path to Sheol;

**This is no casual consequence.** The division that a two-edged sword brings is very real. The road sexual immorality takes you to is death and suffering. This is the con of all cons. You think you are getting pleasure and comfort, but you are really getting bitterness, breakdown in life, and consequences that lead to death and great suffering.

**In verses 7 & 8 he says listen up again.**

**Proverbs 5:7-8** “And now, O sons, listen to me, and do not depart from the words of my mouth. Keep your way far from her, and do not go near the door of her house”.

LISTEN TO ME… do not depart from this counsel or it will wreck your life. Stay far away from such temptation. Do not allow it near. Do not wander into places where this kind of temptation resides. This gets very practical for us.

What conversations are you having or relationships are you flirting with that are set in a foundation of innocent intentions but are really on the door step of great blunder? What online, tv show or movie content are you viewing or allowing into your life? Solomon says **stay away.**

Consider for a moment.. Where is sexual immorality accessible in your life or home?

**Do you have cable in your home, internet access on your computer or phone where sexual temptation is present and a click away?** To stay far away as the counsel is given, it can be wise to remove such access.

Block certain channels on your cable (let someone else set the code), have accountability software on your computer or phone whereby a trusted person can see what you are seeing.

**XXX Church and Covenant Eyes** are both great resources for such software.

I have many brothers who simply don’t have a personal computer or smart phone simply for the fact that they don’t want the temptress on their door step at all times. It is my opinion that our children and young teens should not have personal access to social media and the internet through a smart phone or Ipad. I have simply scene the almost inevitable struggle it means for them when it is simply not needed.

**Now, you might be telling yourself, that would greatly affect my life to not have such access. I get it.**

But I would also ask, **how much your life would be affected if you don’t take the steps to prevent sexual immorality from manifesting itself in your life and marriage?**  That is the point of Solomon’s next words.

In verses 9-11, he says, “lest you give your honor to others and your years to the merciless, lest strangers take their fill of your strength, and your labors go to the house of a foreigner, and at the end of your life you groan, when your flesh and body are consumed”. **Proverbs 5:9-11**  He is saying here, that the consequence of the fall out that comes with this kind of sinful engagement will steal your life away. To give your honor and respect to others opens the door for them to:

**-“take your strength**” – this is what addiction does to your life. You lose your rational to say no. You become weak and at the mercy of the master you have succumb to.

**-“ your labors go to the house of a foreigner”-** this is the sad reality of marriages that fall apart and families that are destroyed as a result of addiction or adultery. All you have worked for in life is stripped away.

In verse 12 & 13, the reality of the fallout is finally understood. The problem is that it is too late. The destruction has happened and the consequences have taken their toll. The listener is remorseful as he says, “How I hated discipline, and my heart despised reproof! I did not listen to the voice of my teachers or incline my ear to my instructors.” **Proverbs 5:12-13**

This is the gift of good counsel ahead of time. Hopefully, you don’t have to be the one who says, “WHY DIDN’T I LISTEN? WHY DID I MAKE EXCUSES AND DO WHAT I WANTED?” This is the gift of this proverb. Hopefully, you take it seriously!

Even if you are already engaging in forbidden things. **STOP. REPENT NOW.** Before you delve in deeper.

Humble yourself to ask for accountability from a brother who is close to you and can walk with you.

Don’t wait until it’s too late and be the one saying, **“Why didn’t I listen to godly counsel when I could?”**

In verses 18-20, Solomon turns to bring encouragement to enjoy the provisions God has given in marriage.

Marriage is worth investing in. Even if you have come to a dry place in your marriage, it is worth whatever it takes to reboot your intimacy and enjoy what God has given as good and right.

Finally, in verse 21, Solomon reminds us to never forget that God is always with us and everything we do is before his eyes.

“For a man's ways are before the eyes of the Lord, and he ponders all his paths.” Let us look to honor him above all else in these things when alone or just in our own thoughts. God is with us and we are to honor him in even the most private moments of this life. He is worthy of our praise and fight for righteous living.

**How seriously does God take these things? Very! So much so that in all his wisdom Solomon returns to the topic of avoiding the adulterous in chapter 6.**

**Church: Hear God’s word bring high and great clarity to the seriousness of this offense**.

Now, the Old Cov positive law which includes the prescription of death for the adulterer was abolished when the Old Covenant was abolished. Which means we are not called to kill people when they are found in adultery because we are in the new covenant now and no longer in the Old Covenant. We are not commanded to stone or kill those who have broken their marriage vows with adultery.

This doesn’t make the sin of breaking this commandment any less offensive or hurtful. The penalty for breaking this commandment is still death but it is carried out differently in the NC.

Those truly in Christ, It is Christ who dies for our sin.

See that instead of you who is killed for your sin, it is Christ who is brutally killed in your place.

This should NOT bring relief to practice more sin but all the more reason to honor God as now, in Christ you have the power to flee from sin and walk in righteousness. It is all the more reason to Honor God with our lives and make much of the gospels working in our growing sanctification and turning from sin.

For those that remain in unrepentant sin and stand apart from Christ, while they are not killed right away for their sin there are guilty of it and will not inherit the kingdom of God but be punished forever in Hell.

**1 Corinthians 6:9** Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality,

Paul’s words there, inspired by God, are serious…they are of eternal weight.

Those who HAVE THE IDENTITY of unrepentant sinner will not inherit the kingdom of God. The unrighteous, who have not repented and trusted in savingly in Christ, will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Those who are truly in Christ, are so eternally, so while we may sin, we will show the genuineness of our faith in that we repent and we, over the course of our lives, sin less often.

So, how do we fight the sin and temptation that lures the flesh to break this commandment.

The answer is Christ.

We will not keep this commandment by just route effort, thinking: *“ I must just work really hard to NOT think or act out sexually with someone who is not my spouse.”*

The root of the sin is the desire of the heart.

**James 1:15** Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

The goal is not to just refrain from acting or thinking sinfully it is for the heart to satisfied in Christ so that we love others in a God honoring way. That we “love others from a faithful and pure heart.”

As I said in my opening remarks, it is a matter of faithfulness to God and love for God that motivates and overflows us to love others rightly. **To love them from a faithful and pure heart.**

Things brings us to another way the word adultery is used in scripture and helps us do business with to whom our heart ultimately belongs.

So let’s look at spiritual adultery.

**3. What is Spiritual Adultery?**

The unfaithfulness of the Israelites who were unfaithful to God under the terms of the Old Covenant meant it was also counted as adultery because they were not faithful to the one true God.

We see God’s word use this language in many places. One in particular that we see in the NT is:

**James 4:4a** You adulterous people!

it should not surprise us that God uses descriptions of marriage between himself and his Covenant people in the OT. For example in…

**Isaiah 54:5-6** For your Maker is your husband, the Lord of hosts is his name;

and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called.

6 For the Lord has called you like a wife deserted and grieved in spirit, like a wife of youth when she is cast off, says your God.

Then we read in many other places about the adulterous betrayal of Israel against God as they gave themselves to sin and false gods. Notice with me that their infidelity was not sexual but spiritual against God.

**Jeremiah 3:20** Surely, as a treacherous wife leaves her husband, so have you been treacherous to me, O house of Israel, declares the Lord.**’”**

**Judges 2:17** Yet they did not listen to their judges, for they whored after other gods and bowed down to them. They soon turned aside from the way in which their fathers had walked, who had obeyed the commandments of the LORD, and they did not do so.

The pinnacle of the imagery of Israel’s unfaithfulness is shown in the life of Hosea.

The Lord commands Hosea to marry a prostitute so that her unfaithfulness would portray the adulterous relationship Israel had with false gods

**Hosea 1:2** When the Lord first spoke through Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea, “Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the Lord.”

Jesus continues this type of reference and imagery of God’s people adulterating their covenant with him. In **Matthew 12:39 and 16:4** he calls them *an evil and adulterous generation*.

He said this to the religious Jews who has turned away from the Lord and his revealed word to their own man-made laws and false worship. Despite their fierce claims of utter devotion to the God of Judaism, they were adulterous and had denied the one true God altogether.

We must always remember that the Old Covenant that GOD MADE WITH ISRAEL stood as a temporary covenant that offered temporary blessings but did not offer eternal life. Through promises, types, and shadows it taught about the Messiah, who was to come to fulfill the law, establish the New Covenant, and redeem the elect.

It is only in the New Covenant that the chosen people of God are redeemed into an eternal unbreakable relationship with Him. God’s faithfulness and power to pursue us, buy us out of our slavery to sin and secure us with him forever that we greatly rejoice.

I really want you to do business with that for a moment this evening.

**Consider the faithfulness of Jesus to die for us not when we were wooing him or doing anything that would merit his choosing us.** For nothing we did in sin was unto the glory of God.

No instead, we wanted nothing to do with him. All we did was sin and pursued our flesh.

We were the epitome of the unfaithful spouse in every way whoring ourselves to sin and selfish desires. It was in this state that Jesus died for us.

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **Romans 5:8**

**Ephesians 5:25-26** Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

He gave himself up for us, His eternally chosen bride, when we were nothing but unfaithful to Him and what he is due as God.

Every one of us who has called upon the name of Jesus and been reconciled to him was in that very state of constant sinful unfaithfulness to what God is due. We wanted nothing to do with him and yet he remained faithful.

Think about that.. Most people struggle with the idea of remaining faithful to a marriage convent for one act of adultery or unfaithfulness… **What about when that spouse wants nothing to do with you and all they do is whore themselves with others and adulterate the covenant that was made?**

Most would say in their selfish flesh, **no way, I couldn’t remain faithful to my covenant to a person who was like that.**

But don’t you see.. **that is us, still in this fallen world before glory—when we sin, as believers, we are being unfaithful. We, in the moment of sin, are going after another god—a false god.**

Praise God for He is good and will not betray himself or his plan of graceful redemption of his chosen people.

**2 Timothy 2:13** if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself.

Church: It is the strength of the Lord that we are dependent on. Not our own strength.

For if it where up to us we would have no hope for “loving others from a faithful and pure heart.”

I often find the error of the one who gives themselves over to the lures of sexual sin is the one who is trying to fight the flesh with the flesh, with will power, and not with a growing faith and faithfulness to Christ. We must be abiding in Him and He in us. Paul makes it clear that ..

..in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Romans 8: 37-39**

Praise be to God.

**4. What are the practical applications of “loving others from a faithful and pure heart” today?**

Our culture does not love God nor submits to His good law but instead looks to satisfy the longings of the flesh. God is not their goal. Therefore the heart is never satisfied as it looks to only fill itself with created or sinful things. This is why our culture is so headlong in the profaning of sexuality and so quick to say have it your way. \*to Profane is to take what is sacred and make it common.

We live in a culture that does not love others from a pure and faithful heart.

Therefore, We cannot go down the street without seeing a billboard advertising it or a commercial presenting it full force. We cannot stand in the checkout line at the grocery store without it be pushed upon us.

As we look at the command tonight and think through all the cultural implications of this command for us, we must understand that we are not called to go and hide from our culture. We are to react in a way that is God honoring and biblical. We must deal with these matters in ways that bring light and life to those around us.

**1 Thessalonians 4:3-5** (NIV1984) It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God

Christian: This starts in the heart. It starts with what you love most. It starts with God.

If you go right to how you will manage the barrage of sexual temptation you miss the core of what motivates you to combat it. A heart that is full and satisfied in God.

Then and only then will we “love others from a faithful and pure heart.”

Only when we are fixed on Christ and satisfied in God then and only then will we be equipped to navigate the temptations of the world and to put off the sinful longings of the flesh.

Once our heart is in a God fulfilled God honoring place our daily fight is not about removing yourself form the world; rather, it is about boldly deny temptations and even removing the unnecessary temptations of the world from you. It’s a heart conviction to be above reproach.

The Bible commands us to mortify sin or the sinful deeds of the body. Mortify means to be putting it to death. This means that we are digging in to the root of sin to kill it off.

The goal is that Christ possesses all of our heart and so there is no room for sinful indulgence or flirting.

*Matthew 5:8* *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*

In the Sermon on the Mount we see that Christ is showing us how we should live as Kingdom dwellers. He speaks here of being pure of heart-- not letting things defile us in our inner most being. Out of the heart proceeds envies, strife, etc.

To be putting to death sin, you have to be serious.

Sin and sexual temptation sneaks around, it will plays innocent, and it will be silent and allow you to lose sight of the seriousness of it. Church: We have to take it seriously.

Finally before we wrap up I want to add one last clarity, we must also realize that none of the sexual sins are unforgiveable.

1 John 1:8–10 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

May we all treat repentant sexual sinners as we would any other transgressors — with love and compassion.

May the Lord redeem the adulterer and the fornicator, may we who were spiritual adulterers repent and grow in our dependence on Christ so that our testimony and love would be not to give into the ways of the world of the longings of the flesh but a life that loves others from a faithful and pure heart.