

WORD

"You shall not commit adultery." **EXODUS 20:14**

The world we live in has been redefining marriage in so many ways. Some people say, "Happiness is the goal of all relationships," or some say, "As long as it's between two compatible persons, then it works." The media also tends to advertise physical attraction as the most important aspect. The eighth commandment, "*You shall not commit adultery,*" speaks of marriage when it is not under God's will. In this lesson, we will learn three biblical concepts that will help us gain the right perspective on marriage.

1 Marriage is sacred.

Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. **HEBREWS 13:4**

God created marriage as a union between one man and one woman (Genesis 1:27,28). We should honor the sacredness of the marriage covenant because it is designed by God. To *defile* it is to taint God's original intent for marriage. What does it mean for marriage to be *held in honor*?

2 Adultery is sin.

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 . . . **1 CORINTHIANS 6:9**

Adultery is sin, and God hates it (just like any other sin). No matter what society says about marriage and relationships, our standard should be based on God's Word. God created the laws not to withhold something from us, but to teach us how to live a holy life as God's children. Healthy and loving relationships are achieved only in the way God designed them. But sin destroys the real joy we can experience in God's plan for our lives. As children of God, what are we to pursue? (2 Timothy 2:22)

3 Adultery begins with lust.

²It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful. ³And David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, "Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" ⁴So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her . . . **2 SAMUEL 11:2-4**

Adultery is not just the behavior—it's an issue of the heart, and it starts with desiring something other than God's will. Jesus said that ". . . everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart" (Matthew 5:27,28). What we stare at sets the atmosphere for our hearts. We cannot control the things around us, but we can determine what goes into our hearts. What things have you learned to guard against in order to keep your heart pure?

APPLICATION

- What have you learned from this lesson about marriage?
How is this relevant in your life right now?
- How can you guard your heart against lust and temptation?
Who can pray for you and help you overcome these temptations?
- Is there someone you know who is struggling with his or her idea of marriage? How can you encourage him or her this week?

PRAYER

- Thank God for the gift of marriage, and for His plans for our families.
- Ask God for the grace to live a holy life, and to always walk in His will.
- Pray that God will use your life to be a testimony for His glory. Ask God to give you the boldness to preach the gospel to the people around you.



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