

“Provision, Perversion, Precaution”
Lessons from the Seventh Commandment
Exodus 20:14

The 7th commandment, *“Thou shalt not commit adultery”* is given by God to fortify His wonderful design of marriage and intimacy. As we obey both the letter and the spirit of this command we can experience God’s blessings. To this end, we must be reminded of. . .

I. God’s PROVISION (The Principle, Design, Creation)

(Gen 2:18-25; Prov 5:18-21; Songs 4:9-10; 7:10; 1 Cor 7:3-5; Eph 5:22-33)

The Sanctity of Marriage

“For this cause shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.” – Gen 2:24

(This is Emotional, Theological and Practical)

The Purpose of Marriage

Partnership, Pleasure, Procreation, Purity and Picture

II. Man’s PERVERSION (The Prohibitions, Deviations, Commands)

(Ex 20:14; Lev 18, 20; 2 Sam 11; Mat 5:27-28; 15:19; Gal 5:19; Heb 13:4; Jas 4:4; 2 Pet 2:14)

Outward Actions

- Adultery – A married person with non-spouse
- Fornication – Two unmarried people
- Homosexuality – Two people of same sex

Inward Thoughts

- Lust – Desires out of God’s boundaries
- Pornography – Explicit image, pictures

III. Wise PRECAUTIONS (The Preventive Measures, Defense, Fight)

(Gen 39:7-12; Job 31:1; Ps 119:9-11; Prov 2, 5-7; Mat 5:29-30; 1 Cor 6:18; 1 Thes 4:3-8)

Put Off (Prov 31:1; 2 Cor 6:14; Gen 39)

- Guard What You Put in Your Mind & Heart
- Avoid Spiritual Mis-matches
- RUN from Sexual Immorality

Put On (Prov 5-7; 1 Cor 6; Prov 27:17)

- Read Wisdom & Epistles (Prov 5-7; 1 Cor 6)
- Find an Accountability Partner
- Work at Intimacy in Your Marriage
- Read and Apply “The Purity Principle”

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Small Group Discussion Guide

Icebreaker: We are considering “running” from sin. Share about a time you were running (a race or other) or fleeing from something.

1. Share something from Sunday’s message that challenged you.
2. Read and discuss Gen 2:18-25. What are some things that make God’s design for marriage so special. Share about a marriage that you have observed to be a positive example.
3. Why have there always been so many perversions of God’s design for marriage and intimacy? How should we respond as Christians to the godless attitude about sex and marriage in our culture today?
4. Read and discuss Mat 5:27-30. How does Jesus help us to better understand the seventh commandment? How can we obey this teaching?
5. How would you give hope to someone who has committed adultery or other sexual sins and is buried under a weight of guilt?

Digging Deeper:

1. Compare and contrast Joseph’s victory (Gen 39:7-12) with David’s failure (2 Sam 11) in the face of temptation to adultery. What are some principles we can draw from these accounts to help us resist temptation?
2. Read Proverbs 5 and 7 noting how much instruction Solomon gives his son about resisting the lure of sexual temptation. Notice more of the same in Prov 2:16-19 and 6:24-32. Jot down one key verse or principle from each of these four passages.
3. Read “The Purity Principle” by Randy Alcorn. Jot down the main point of each chapter and one action step you will apply from each chapter.

For Next Week:

We will consider the eighth commandment, *“Thou shalt not steal.”* Why do you think God included this in the top ten? How does stealing originate in the heart (Mat 15:19, “thefts”)? How do people sometimes steal according to Mal 3:8-10? Write out the meaning of Eph 4:28 in your own words.