

RULES TO LIVE BY!

8. Do Not Commit Adultery



Introduction

The world around us is becoming more and more immoral. Our newspapers openly report such incidents, TV programs and movies always seem to include sex, and for many it's a common topic of conversation. The seventh commandment that God has given is being ignored. In this study we will look at this command, which is one of five that speak about our relationships with other people.

Scripture Reading: **Deuteronomy 5:18**

- ❶ The Bible says a great deal about sexual relationships. What are some of the relationships that God prohibits? Leviticus 18:6, 20, 22, 23

- (1. *Sexual relationships between close relatives.*)
- (2. *Sexual relationships between neighbors. In other words, with anyone other than your own husband or wife.*)
- (3. *Sexual relationships between someone of the same gender.*)
- (4. *Sex relationships between men or women and animals.*)

- ❷ Why was God going to drive out the nations living in Canaan and what affect did their sin have on the land? Leviticus 18:24-27

(The Canaanites who lived in the land had been committing all these sexual sins and as a result it had defiled the land.)

- ❸ What is God's attitude towards these sins, and what affect do they have on men and women?

(God abhors or hates these sins and says they are detestable. He will punish those who commit such sins and cut them off from His people. One reason why God hates this sin so much is because it defiles or pollutes people.)

- ❹ There is something else that defiles a person that is mentioned in Leviticus 20:6. How does it describe what a person does when they turn to mediums? And why do you think God describes it in this way?

(It describes this as a person 'prostituting themselves'. Just as a person who has many sexual partners is called a prostitute, so a person who worships other gods is called a spiritual prostitute.)

When a person turns to other gods and seeks their help they open themselves to evil spirits. The same is true when a person commits sexual sins. Evil spirits are easily transferred through sexual relationships. When someone disobeys God's law, and commits adultery or fornication, he or she is opening the door for the evil one, and unclean spirits can go from one partner to the other. Their sin defiles them, and they may also be defiled by the spirits that have now entered them.

- 5 Although the 7th commandment is speaking about outward actions, Jesus showed that it means far more than that. What new insight does Jesus give to this command in Matthew 5:27-30?

(Jesus showed that it was not just the outward action that was wrong, but also the thoughts in the mind and the way you looked at another person.)

- 6 Jesus' words in the following verses, Matthew 5:29-30 seem very severe. What do you think Jesus is wanting to tell us?

(Jesus is showing that this sin is so serious it could cause us to be thrown into hell. Therefore we need to deal with it severely.)

- 7 What will happen if we continue to walk in sin according to 1 Corinthians 6:9-11? However what assurance do we have if we have truly repented?

(We will not inherit the Kingdom of God. However if we have repented then we are washed, sanctified and justified by the precious blood of Jesus.)

Sadly many Christians have broken the 7th commandment – if not in deeds, then in their thoughts. If we have then we need to ask God's forgiveness. Let's spend a few moments and search out our hearts. Have we repented from what we have done? If not, then do so now.

Conclusion

We all know the story of the woman who was caught in the act of adultery and brought to the feet of Jesus. That day the woman received forgiveness. How wonderful that we can be forgiven. But let's take note of what Jesus said to the woman: "Go now and leave your life of sin". If we have received forgiveness today or in the past for sinful thoughts or actions, then let's take note of what Jesus said to this woman: "Go now and do not return to this sin again." Let us be a holy people to the Lord! Amen.