

**You shall not commit adultery**  
 Exodus 20:14, Deuteronomy 5:18

Framework to interpret and apply the law	Questions to ask	How this applies to the 7 <sup>th</sup> Commandment	Scripture	Notes
<p><b>The context of God's covenant love:</b> The prelude to the giving of the law is "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out the land of slavery." (Exodus 20:2)</p>	<p>How does the truth of God's covenant love and redemption provide a lens through which to view the command?</p>	<p>The law reflects God's character. As a triune God, he is by nature relational, and he creates us in his image for relationship with himself and others. And he is the Bridegroom always faithful to his people, even when they rebel.</p>	<p>Genesis 1:27,          All of Hosea          Jeremiah 3:1-10,          5:7-11,          Malachi 2:10-16</p>	
<p><b>Biblical Rule:</b> Embed this law in the greater context of Scripture.</p>	<p>How does the whole of Scripture influence my understanding of the command?</p>	<p>Marriage is established at Creation. It's used in the Old Testament as a picture of God's pursuing love for his people and in the New Testament to show relationship between Christ and his church. Our destination is a great wedding feast.</p>	<p>Genesis 2:20-25          Ephesians 5:25-32          Revelation 19:6-9</p>	
<p><b>Inside/out rule:</b> The law applies to both the hands and the heart.</p>	<p>What would obedience look like at both the hands and heart level? Puritan proverb: "Man's law binds the hands only, God's law binds the heart."</p>	<p>Sermon on the Mount: Looking lustfully is committing adultery. What's included in adultery of the eyes and heart?</p>	<p>Matthew 5:27-28</p>	

Framework to interpret and apply the law	Questions to ask	How this applies to the 7 <sup>th</sup> Commandment	Scripture	Notes
<b>Two-sided rule:</b> Each command has a stated and implicit aspect (+/-).	What does the command forbid? What does the command require? (What should we do? What should we <i>not</i> do?)	The positive: Be faithful. Love your spouse like God loves his people. Sacrificing, serving.	Ephesians 5:21-33	
<b>Law of categories:</b> The depth of the command extends beyond the tip of the iceberg being stated— not only the big sins matter, but also those that lead toward them.	How can I appreciate this command as a category of sins/commands related to the stated command?	Any sexual activity outside of heterosexual marriage, any lack of faithfulness within marriage.	Hebrews 13:1-6, 1 Corinthians 6:18-20, Ephesians 5:3	
<b>Brother's keeper rule:</b> We are called to obedience as a community and as a people of God and are to "spur one another on to love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10:24)	Am I so centered on self that I shy away from seeing how I may be called to support others in collectively upholding this command?	The discomfort of calling people to God's standard when the culture does not support it (and does not see it as loving)	Leviticus 20:10, Deuteronomy 22:22-24, 1 Corinthians 5:1-2	
<b>All at once rule:</b> We cannot perform every positive duty simultaneously, though all prohibited actions should be avoided at all times.	Remember that "love is the fulfilling of the law" (Romans 13:10): our obedience to any/all of the commands is ultimately for the end of loving God and people.	Keeping 7 <sup>th</sup> commandment is not reason to tolerate abuse. Ignoring your spouse's unrepentant sin is not love. In some cases, the most godly and faithful decision may be to confront sin or even leave a marriage.	Matthew 18:15-17, 1 Corinthians 7:12-15, Ephesians 4:29	