

**You Shall Not Commit Adultery**  
Exodus 20:14, Deuteronomy 5:18

**Main idea 1: This commandment reveals God's relationship with himself.** As "you shall not murder" reflects that God is the creator and sustainer of life, so "you shall not commit adultery" reflects that God's nature includes the relationship of love within the Trinity. Part of being made in his image means that we are created for intimate, loving, relationship.

- How does the reality that God is love make a difference in our experience of "you shall not commit adultery"?

**Main idea 2: This commandment reveals God's relationship with his people.** Throughout Scripture, marriage is used as a picture of the relationship between God and his people. "You shall not commit adultery" reflects his faithful, covenantal love for his people. In the day to day of our marriages, a profoundly sacred reality is being revealed, something bigger than our individual experience of happiness or unhappiness.

God's people are adulterous: *Have you seen what faithless Israel has done? She has gone up on every high hill and under every spreading tree and has committed adultery there (Jeremiah 3:6).* (See Jeremiah 3:1-10, 5:7-11, Malachi 2:10-16, and all of Hosea.)

God is faithful: *I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the Lord (Hosea 2:19).*

- How does God's faithful, covenantal love for his people make a difference in our experience of "you shall not commit adultery"?

The sweetness of affection between the sexes, linked (as it always is) with the sense that a couple's relationship, however complete, is never quite complete, is actually a jeweled signpost pointing us on to God. -J.I. Packer, *Keeping the Ten Commandments*

### Main idea 3: Adultery is a sexual relationship that breaks the marriage bond.

- Given main idea #1-2, why does adultery matter?

“In the jungle of modern permissiveness the meaning and purpose of sex is missed, and its glory is lost. Our benighted society urgently needs recalling to the nobling and ennobling view of sex that Scripture implies and the seventh commandment assumes: namely, that sex is for fully and permanently committed relationships that, by being the blend of affection, loyalty and biology that they are, prepare us for and help us into that which is their archetype—‘the happiness of being freely, voluntarily united’ to God, men and angels ‘in an ecstasy of love and delight compared with which the most rapturous love between a man and a woman on earth is mere milk and water.’” —Packer, *Keeping the Ten Commandments* (quoting C.S. Lewis)

“The union between a husband and wife is intended to exemplify the exclusive relationship between God and his people. There is something transcendent about sexuality. In the same way that husbands and wives give themselves to one another—holding nothing back—God gives himself to us and wants us to give ourselves to him.” —Philip Ryken, *Written in Stone*

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Sneak preview for next week: The 7<sup>th</sup> Commandment in our homes:

- What would obedience look like for me at both the heart and hands level? (the inside-out rule)
- What should I *do* and *not do* because of this command? (the two-sided rule)
- Besides the prohibition against marital sexual infidelity, what else is included in the category of adultery? (the rule of categories)
- How am I called to support others in upholding this command? (the brother’s keeper rule)
- In what ways can I be keeping this command in the context of the call of the entire law to love God and neighbor? (the rule of love)