

UPPER ROOM ADULT BIBLE CLASS

Fall/Winter, 2018

Pastor Jim Otte

“Foundational Truth for a Confused World: The Ten Commandments”

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Session Twenty: The Sixth Commandment – Thou shalt not commit adultery. As God’s “beloved,” cherish the sacredness of marriage, in word and deed.

(Luther) “We should fear and love God that we may lead a chaste and decent life in word and deed, and each love and honor his/her spouse.”

From Previous Lesson:

- a. Gay Revisionist Theology is attempting re-translate the Bible passages, which condemn a homosexual lifestyle, into words which support loving, committed, and monogamous gay relationships.
- b. Christians, who have people in their lives with Same Sex Attraction – and perhaps have given themselves over to the homosexual life – can respond by:
 - a. Loving the person and keeping the door open for listening.
 - b. Standing by your Biblical convictions.
 - c. Praying daily.
 - d. Seeking guidance from conservative Christian support networks.
 - e. Being prepared for active pushback

Marriage, Divorce, & Remarriage

- a. **Unmarried men and women living together outside of marriage.**
 - i. Very common today, even among Christian men and women.
 - ii. Usual reasons:
 - 1. Save money for our wedding.
 - 2. To find out if we are compatible.
 - 3. It’s our life; we can do what we want.
 - 4. To “practice” being married; as a hedge against marrying the “wrong” person.
 - 5. Peer pressure of a “hook up” culture; sex before marriage; “commitment” elevated to the standard of what is ok
 - 6. Can always “leave” if things don’t work out
 - 7. Fear of “losing” that person to someone else, who is sexually active, and acting out of the fear of being alone.
 - iii. In LCMS, some pastors will marry couples who live together before marriage; others refuse unless the couples separate.
 - 1. Marrying the couple may send the message that living together is ok.
 - 2. Refusing to marry the couple may send them elsewhere and remove an opportunity to be influential in their marriage.

b. Pornography

- a. On-line pornography has saturated our culture and has succeeded at desensitizing people to sexual images.
- b. “Virtual adultery” when marriage is involved.
- c. Seen as normative by many people under 30, until they get married.
- d. Most Christian men, addicted to pornography, started their interest at age 13-14; thinking its normal and harmless: “boys will be boys.”
- e. Is the driving force behind many technological advances.
- f. Best Christian resources to minister to addiction:
 - i. **Pure Desire** resources and online groups by Ted Roberts
 - ii. **“Covenant Eyes”** online tool for filtering/blocking the use of pornography & for tracking online relapses with the help of accountability partners

c. Marriage & Divorce and Remarriage

- i. **Matthew 19:1-10.** *Now when Jesus had finished these sayings, he went away from Galilee and entered the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. ² And large crowds followed him, and he healed them there. ³ And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful to divorce one’s wife for any cause?” ⁴ He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, ⁵ and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? ⁶ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.” ⁷ They said to him, “Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?” ⁸ He said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. ⁹ And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery.”^[a]*

¹⁰ *The disciples said to him, “If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry.”*

- ii. **“Some Pharisees...Is it lawful...?”**
 1. Theological split into two camps: Conservatives (Pharisees) taught that divorce was allowed only in case of adultery; Liberals (Sadducees) taught that divorce was allowed for any reason, where the wife displeased the husband.
 2. This was questioning Jesus’ position on the matter.
- iii. **“Have you not read...?”** Jesus redefines the matter: Let’s talk about marriage!
- iv. **“What therefore God has joined together...”** - God’s primary intent is for people to stay married all during their earthly life.

- v. **“Why did Moses command...Moses allowed...”** - The Pharisees claim is that divorce was commanded; Jesus counters with divorce being allowed for **“the hardness of heart.”**
 - 1. **Abuse, addictions, abandonment, and adultery are often cited as “hardness of heart”**
- vi. **“except for sexual immorality”** – adultery breaks the oneness of the marriage and allows for divorce; does not mandate it, as forgiveness & reconciliation are encouraged. Restoration of trust is the most challenging aspect to heal.
- vii. **“whoever divorces his wife...and marries another commits adultery.”** – The husband, who divorces his wife for reasons other than “hardness of heart,” i.e. he is tired of her, he has affairs, etc. and marries someone else commits adultery.
- viii. **Matthew 5:31-32.** *“It has been said, ‘Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.’^[a] ³² But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.*
 - 1. **“Anyone who divorces his wife...makes her the victim of adultery.”** – To divorce one’s wife, for any reason other than her committing adultery with someone else, was to stigmatize her with the reputation of being an adulterer. He is the guilty one, not her!
 - 2. **“And anyone who marries (that) divorced woman commits adultery.”** – The stigma is further advanced, as her new husband is scandalized as an adulterer.

d. When Christians Divorce...

- a. It is a sad, but sometimes necessary, thing.
- b. The Christian church has not always been kind to divorced Christians.
- c. Who gets the church in the custody agreement.
- d. **“Divorce Care”** is an excellent resource for recovery from divorce.
 - i. Examining the reasons for the divorce, as well as whatever contributions each person made for the demise of the marriage, is critical before remarrying.
- e. **After the Affair** by Janis Abrahams Spring (for couples seeking to repair and rebuild their marriage)
- f. Great Resources for Remarriage Issues:
 - i. **The Smart Step Family** by Ron Deal
 - ii. **101 Tips for the Smart Step Mom** by Laura Petherbridge