

Deuteronomy

A Call to Covenant Renewal



**The 7th Word:
You Shall Not
Commit Adultery**

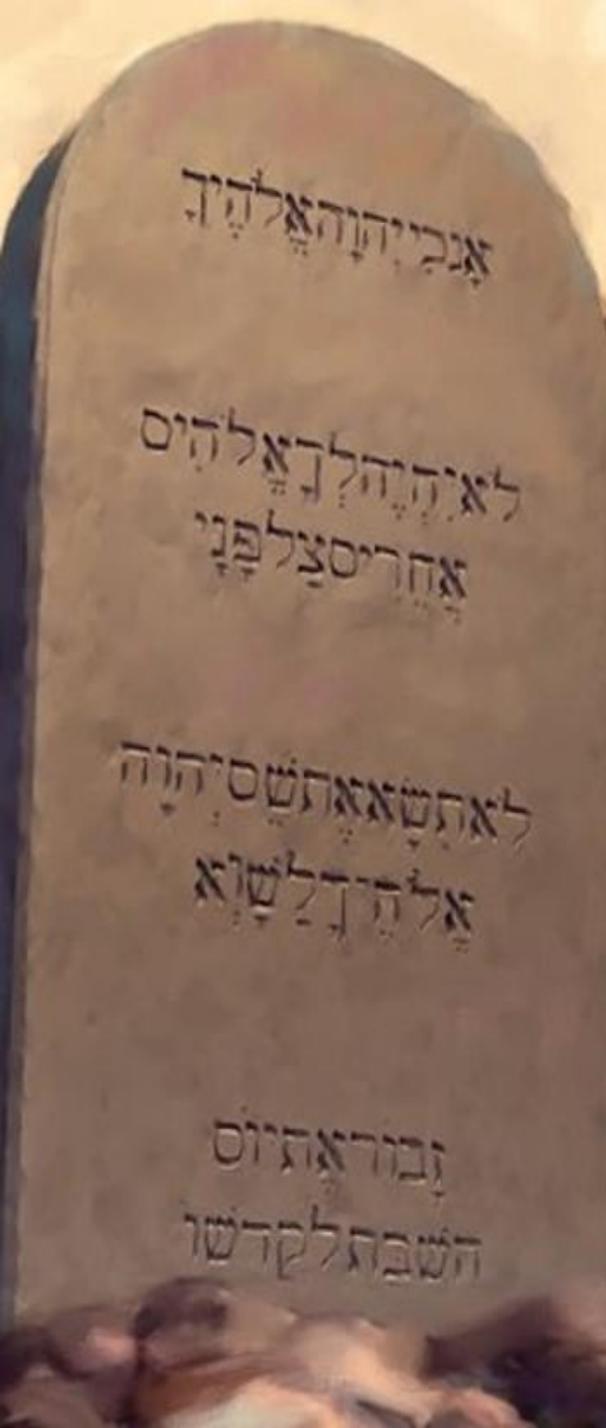
Deuteronomy 5:18

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You shall not commit adultery.

Hebrews 13:4
Let marriage be held in honor among all,
and let the marriage bed be undefiled;
for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

Main Idea

The 7th Word teaches that the LORD is faithful to His covenant Bride; and, whether we are married or single, it requires that we honor and be faithful to marriage itself.



Do Not Commit Adultery
What must be understood
to understand this Word?

What must be understood?

Adultery cannot be understood
if **marriage** is not understood.

What is marriage?

Marriage is a covenant union between one man and one woman; whereby, the two are wholly joined to one another, body and soul, and made to be one fully shared life.

Genesis 2:23-24

And the man said,

“This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh;

She shall be called Woman,

Because she was taken out of Man.”

For this cause a man shall leave his father
and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife;
and they shall become one flesh.

Covenant Union

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Because a new covenant is formed

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She shall be called Woman,
Because she was taken out of Man.”

For this cause a man shall leave his father
and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife;
and they shall become one flesh.

Forsake one to honor another

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And the man said,
“This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh;
She shall be called Woman,
Because she was taken out of Man.”

For this cause **a man shall leave his father
and his mother, and shall cleave
to his wife;**

and they shall become one flesh.

United in one shared life

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And the man said,
“This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh;
She shall be called Woman,
Because she was taken out of Man.”
For this cause a man shall leave his father
and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife;

and they shall become one flesh.

Matthew 19:5

“For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother,
and shall cleave to his wife;
and the two shall become one flesh”.

Jesus adds clarity

Matthew 19:5

“For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother,
and shall cleave to his wife;
and **the two** shall **become one** flesh”.

What is oneness?

It is shared intimacy.

It is shared mind and mission.

It is shared enjoyments and experiences.

It is shared family.

It is shared home and possessions.

It is shared celebrations and sufferings.

What is oneness?

It is a fully shared life!

But marriage is much more!

Marriage is a living illustration
and ongoing testament to God's
glorious love for His people poured
out on us in the love of Christ.

Ephesians 5:25 and 31-32

Husbands, **love** your wives, just as Christ also **loved** the church and gave Himself up for her.

*“For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother,
and shall be joined to his wife;
and the two shall become one flesh.”*

This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.

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This mystery is great; but **I am speaking with
reference
to Christ and the church.**

What must be understood?

Adultery cannot be understood if marriage is not understood.

Adultery cannot be understood if
the heart of adultery is not understood.

What is adultery?

Adultery, as an act, is the *physical* expression of marital unfaithfulness.

What is *the heart* of adultery?

It is a heart that dishonors
marriage itself.

Hebrews 13:4

Let marriage be held in honor among all,
and let the marriage bed be undefiled;
for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

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Let marriage be held in honor among all,

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The bed *signifies* marriage itself.

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Let marriage be held in honor among all,

and let the marriage bed be undefiled;

for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

Let marriage itself be unspoiled.

These things spoil marriage.

Hebrews 13:4

Let marriage be held in honor among all,
and let the marriage bed be undefiled;

for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

What is *the heart* of adultery?

It is a heart's *desire* for the pleasures of marital oneness outside of marriage.

It clearly includes physical oneness

Hebrews 13:4

Let marriage be held in honor among all,

and **let the marriage bed be undefiled;**

for the sexually impure and adulterers God will judge.

Hebrews 13:4

Let marriage be held in honor among all,
and let **the marriage bed** be undefiled;
for the sexually impure and adulterers God will judge.

But the marriage bed is simply the *physical*
expression of the deeper delights that God
intends to be shared in marriage.

In other words, the enjoyments of marital oneness are reserved for the married!

Matthew 19:5

“For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother,
and shall cleave to his wife;

and **the two** shall **become one** flesh”.

Remember that oneness?

Shared intimacy

Shared delights and experiences.

Shared celebrations and sufferings.

To be clear, it is *marital* sharing
that is adulterous.

Jesus helps us understand.

Matthew 5:27-28

You have heard that it was said,
“You shall not commit adultery”; but I say to you,
that everyone who looks on a woman to desire her
has committed adultery with her already in his heart.

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This desire is what is adulterous.

Matthew 5:27-28

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“You shall not commit adultery”; but I say to you,
that everyone who looks on a woman to desire her

has committed adultery with her already
in his heart.

What is this desire?

We must understand that the desire for physical intimacy is an outflow of much deeper *covenantal* desires.

Covenantal Desires:

The desire for the intimacy of oneness.

The desire to accept and be accepted.

The desire to enjoy and give enjoyment.

The desire to cherish and be cherished.

The desire to comfort and be comforted.

The desire to possess and be possessed.

Lust is so much more than simply dwelling on the pleasures of physical intimacy.

An Important Side Note:

If you do not address the deeper cravings of your soul, you will never overcome temptations to lust.

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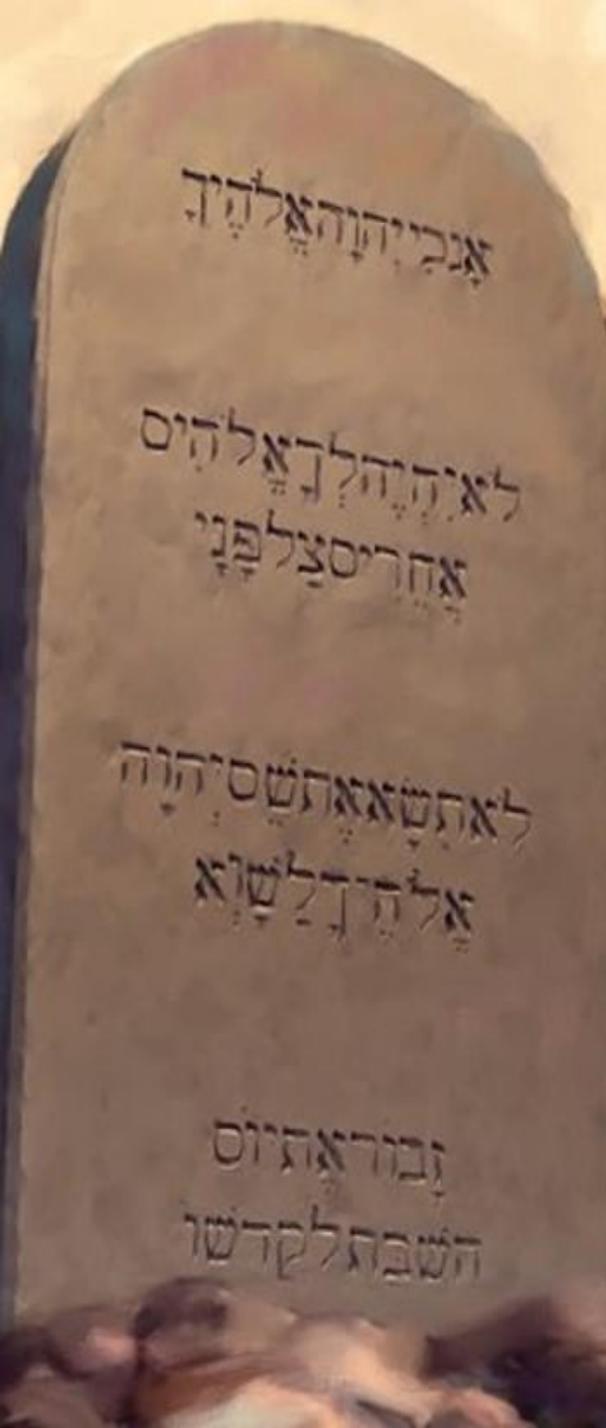
that **everyone who looks** on a woman **to desire** her
has committed adultery with her already in his heart.

What are you really desiring?

What is *the heart* of adultery?

The *greatest* adultery is the pursuit of soul satisfaction from anyone other than God.

In other words, you can commit *spiritual* adultery **with your spouse** by looking to him or her to be your satisfaction.



Do Not Commit Adultery

What must be understood to understand this Word?

What does the 7th Word require?

What does the 7th Word require?

That a married person does not engage in covenantal intimacies with anyone other than his or her spouse.

Deuteronomy 5:18

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not violate the heart
of your covenant union.

Covenantal Intimacies

Physical intimacy.

Emotional intimacy.

Intellectual intimacy.

Experiential intimacy.

Spiritual intimacy.

What does the 7th Word require?

That a married person does not even *consider* or *contemplate* covenantal intimacies with anyone other than his or her spouse.

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What does the 7th Word require?

That single people honor marriage by refraining from the covenant commitments and blessings of marriage until married.

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Fornication *signifies* the enjoyments
of marital oneness.

Romans 7:3

So then if, while *a woman's* husband is living,
she is joined to another man,
she shall be called an adulteress.

This joining is much more than physical.

Examples of Marital Joining:

A joining of physical intimacy.

A joining of other intimacies.

A joining of habitation.

A joining of finances/possessions.

What does the 7th Word require?

That marriage itself
be honored by **all**.

Hebrews 13:4

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and let the marriage bed be undefiled;

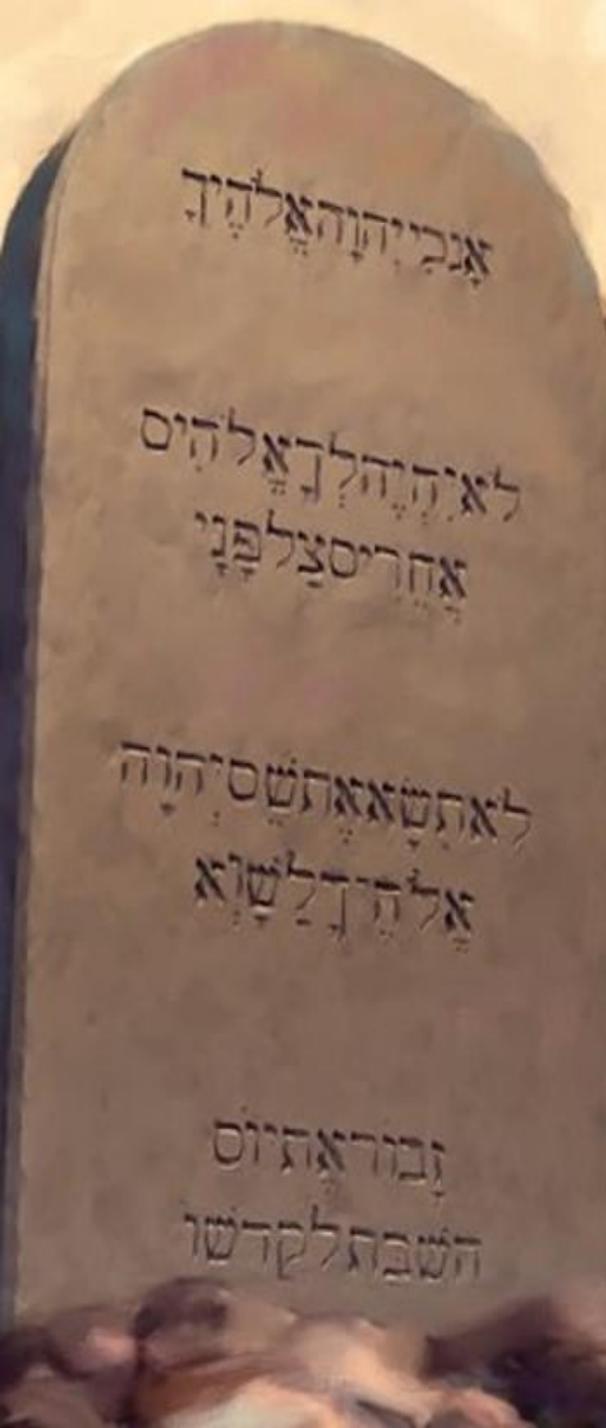
for the sexually impure and adulterers God will judge.

Some Examples:

Upholding and defending **God's design**
of one man and one woman unions.

Neither divorcing nor condoning divorce.

Neither cohabiting nor condoning
cohabitation.



Do Not Commit Adultery

What must be understood to understand this Word?

What does the 7th Word require?

What does the 7th Word teach us about God?

What does the 7th Word teach?

That the LORD has chosen a people,
His Church, the Bride of Christ,
to love and delight in forever.

Deuteronomy 7:6

For you are a holy people to the LORD your God;
the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people
for His own possession out of all the peoples
who are on the face of the earth.

For His own delight!

Deuteronomy 7:6

For you are a holy people to the LORD your God;
the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people
for His own possession out of all the peoples
who are on the face of the earth.

2 Thessalonians 2:13

But we should always give thanks to God for you,
brethren beloved by the Lord,
because God has chosen you from the beginning...

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Ephesians 5:25 and 32

Husbands, love your wives, just as **Christ also loved**
the church and gave Himself up for her...
...but I am speaking with reference to Christ
and the church.

What does the 7th Word teach?

That the LORD has chosen a people, His Church, the Bride of Christ, to love and delight in forever.

That the LORD will **always** be faithful
to His people, His beloved Bride.

1 Thessalonians 5:24

Faithful is He who calls you!

Hebrews 13:5

“I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you.”

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“I will never desert you, **nor** will I **ever** forsake you.”

Conclusions

As a man asks a woman to come with Him and be his wife, so Christ calls to you and invites you to be His.

As a woman gives herself to her husband, entrusting her life to him, so you must give yourself to Christ entrusting your life to Him.

As marriage illustrates these truths, honor marriage and be faithful to your spouse.