

## **The Patio Pulpit For August 19, 2020**

The Seventh Commandment  
“Thou shalt not commit adultery”  
Exodus 20:14

Since getting my driver’s license when I turned sixteen, I have broken several laws that involved driving. Yet out of the 57 years that I’ve been driving, I have only had two speeding tickets. I got my first one on the way to church one Sunday morning driving on Hawthorne Lane just before Central Avenue. That was around 1975. I thought the speed limit was 45 so when I saw the officer’s car up ahead I continued to do 45 and she pulled me. My second ticket was issued to me in Rolesville and I was doing 65 in a 45.

But I got away with many more violations that were more serious than speeding. The good thing about our system of law here in the US is that you’re only charged with the particular law you have broken. So when I got my speeding tickets I wasn’t also guilty of murder or theft fraud in the state of North Carolina.

Folks, did you know with God’s law if you’ve broken one you’re guilty of all? <sup>10</sup> **For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.**

<sup>11</sup> For He who said, "DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY," also said, "DO NOT COMMIT MURDER." Now if you do not commit adultery, but do commit murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. (Jas. 2:10-11 NAU). **The law of God is a package deal.**

So, since I have broken more than one of the ten commandments, where does that leave me? In need of someone to save me from myself and from the just wrath of God.

***Exodus 20:14, “You shall not commit adultery.”***

### **First, When adultery means cheating on one’s spouse.**

Moses made a comment in Genesis 2 about the union between Adam and Eve and how it was a picture of every marriage from then on.

<sup>23</sup> *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.*" That's what Adam said. And this is Moses' Spirit-inspired comment:

<sup>24</sup> *For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. (Gen. 2:23-24 NAU)* Verse 24 is what Moses said, not Adam.

Adam didn't say this, it was Moses looking into the future of the human race toward God's will for the time to come when there would be parents. As you know, Adam and Eve didn't have parents to leave. "*For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother...*" Adam didn't have a father and mother to leave and very likely wouldn't have known what Moses would have meant had he heard Moses saying that.

Now jump ahead in time a few thousand years to a day in the life of the Lord Jesus, Mt. 19:3-9. I had never thought about the jumping ahead in time notion before today while I was working on this lesson. We can time-travel in the Bible from creation to the end of all things.

Ya know who else can time travel? The folks at State Farm. Have you noticed that Jake from State Farm started out a white guy in the first commercial but then we meet a new Jake from State Farm who is a young black man who has clearly gone back in time to the same couple the first Jake talked with where they have the same conversation the first Jake had with them. That's only possible by time travel. "Well done, Jake from State Farm."

Now our time jump:

<sup>3</sup> *Some Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all?"*

<sup>4</sup> *And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE,*

<sup>5</sup> *and said, 'FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH '?*

<sup>6</sup> *"So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate." (Matt. 19:3-6 NAU)*

<sup>7</sup> *They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE AND SEND her AWAY?"*

<sup>8</sup> *He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way.*

<sup>9</sup> *"And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery." (Matt. 19:7-9 NAU)*

This isn't the end of the story concerning divorce and remarriage. But that's for another time. Now go back to Mt. 5:31-32,

<sup>31</sup> *"It was said, 'WHOEVER SENDS HIS WIFE AWAY, LET HIM GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE'; (Matt. 5:31 NAU)*

**Matthew 5:32** *but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for the reason of unchastity, fornication, sexual immorality, adultery, makes her commit adultery should she remarry; and whoever marries that divorced adulterous woman commits adultery. (Matt. 5:32 NAU)*

One of several qualifications listed for the office of pastor or overseer or elder is he must be "the husband of one wife." **1 Tim. 3:2,**  
<sup>2</sup> *An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, (1 Tim. 3:2 NAU)*

And **Titus 1:6,**

*"... if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. (Tit. 1:6 NAU).* That one qualification is consistent with the others. It requires that a man seeking the position of an elder, pastor, bishop, or overseer must be a man of integrity and of such a disposition that he has eyes only for his wife.

The phrase "the husband of one wife" is literally "a one-woman-kind-of-man." Otherwise one would have an adulterous and lustful pastor who has a roaming eye for the ladies of the congregation.

Beverly and I will occasionally joke with folks we meet for the

first time and point out that I'm one of those pastors who ran off with the choir leader.

**Second, The Spirit-filled spouse must see his/her marriage as a picture of Christ and His church.**

*<sup>18</sup> And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,*

And what follows concerning the Christian husband and wife is based on their being Spirit-filled:

*<sup>21</sup> and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.*

*<sup>22</sup> Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord.*

*<sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.*

*<sup>32</sup> This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.*

*<sup>33</sup> Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband. (Eph. 5:18-6:1 NAU)*

So, the two shall become one flesh comment in Genesis 2 is a prophecy of the coming bride of Christ. Only, this union makes us one spirit with Jesus. **1 Corinthians 6:17** *But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him. (1 Cor. 6:17 NAU)* Church, committing adultery as a Christian is tantamount to committing adultery against the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>16</sup> *Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one body with her? For He says, "THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH."*

*<sup>17</sup> But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him.*

*<sup>18</sup> Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.*

*<sup>19</sup> Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?*

<sup>20</sup> *For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body. (1 Cor. 6:16-20 NAU)*

### **Third, when adultery is adultery against God.**

<sup>14</sup> *"You shall not commit adultery. (Exod. 20:14 NAU)*

וְלֹא תִנְאָף (Exod. 20:14 WTT) lo teen af

**It is first** the physical act of sexual intercourse with someone other than one's spouse. Adultery is also referred to as cheating, infidelity, two-timing and unfaithfulness. In the seventh commandment it most certainly refers primarily to the form of sexual immorality we know as adultery. To commit adultery is to cheat on one's spouse. It is to betray one's spouse. But because of the analogy of Scripture, Scripture interpreting Scripture and the essential matter of context, we know that adultery also refers to

### **the act of spiritual adultery against God.**

To commit spiritual adultery is to cheat on God, to two-time Him, to be untrue to Him, to betray Him. And just how does anyone do that?

It happens when people who have a working knowledge of the God of the Bible, decide that they can do better. So they set out to create a god of their own liking and design. They create a god who doesn't mind folks who live in darkness and gross immorality. They create a god of their own making, one who doesn't mind if every man does what is right in his own eyes.

#### **Roms. 1:21,**

<sup>21</sup> *For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. (Rom. 1:21 NAU)*

And v.28,

<sup>28</sup> *And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, (Rom. 1:28 NAU)*

<sup>9</sup> *Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals,*

<sup>10</sup> *nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. (1 Cor. 6:9-10 NAU)*

**“...do you not know?”** And the answer is, “Yes, you Corinthians do know. But you have chosen to listen to deceivers who have deceived you into believing that God overlooks the sins of the unrighteous and is going to let them inherit His holy kingdom.” That, beloved, is spiritual adultery. And the Spirit wrote that for the church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

And this, **2 Peter 2:1** *But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.*

<sup>2</sup> **Many will follow their sensuality**, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned;

<sup>3</sup> *and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; (2 Pet. 2:1-3 NAU)*

Beloved of God, I trust that that is not you. I trust that you all know the voice of the Good Shepherd which brings with it the promise of our never following the voice, the false teachings of the false teachers who have invaded the visible church.

<sup>3</sup> *"To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.*

<sup>4</sup> *"When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.*

<sup>5</sup> *"A stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers." (Jn. 10:3-5 NAU)*

Beloved, we are safe in the arms of the One who loves us.

In Jesus' name. Amen.