

YOUTH INSTRUCTION CLASS

LESSON 15: THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT (PART I)

Introduction

What is the sixth commandment God gave to His people?

Become familiar with the following terms:

Adultery (broad definition) Sexual impurity in thought, word, or action.

Adultery (narrow definition) The sexual intercourse of two persons, either of whom is married to a third person. This kind of adultery is grounds for divorce.

Fornication A sexual relationship between persons who are not married to each other.

Protecting and Defining Marriage

- In the sixth commandment God is protecting *marriage*.

Genesis 2:24 (289)

- God established marriage in the Garden of Eden.

Genesis 2:18-25 (292)

Matthew 19:5-6 (291)

- In the beginning, God intended marriage to be *monogamous* (between one man and one woman for life).

Matthew 19:6 (295)

Romans 7:2-3 (294)

The commandments are admirably arranged. First they deal with our neighbor's person (5th commandment). Then they proceed to the person nearest and dearest to him, namely, his wife . . . Thus God by this commandment (6th commandment) wants every husband or wife guarded and protected from any trespass

- Martin Luther
Large Catechism

The Blessings Of Marriage

God gives many blessings through marriage. Some of the most obvious are:

1. _____ Genesis 2:18 (296)
2. _____ 1 Corinthians 7:2-5 (298)
Song of Solomon (297)
3. _____ Psalm 127:3 (301)



- "To make it easier for man to avoid unchastity¹ in some measure, God has established marriage, so that everyone may have his allotted portion and be satisfied with it. The Roman Catholic notion that celibacy² is holier than marriage, and the Roman Catholic law forbidding marriage of priests, are both condemned by God's word" (Luther's *Large Catechism*).

¹*chastity* is moral cleanness, especially regarding sexual matters

²*celibacy* is not getting married

Sins Against This Commandment

Married people can sin against this commandment by:

1. _____ Hebrews 13:4 (310)
Mark 6:17-18
2. _____ Matthew 19:9 (314)
1 Corinthians 7:15 (315)

- The Bible tells of only two situations in which a married person may get a divorce. One is adultery (narrow definition) and the other is desertion (where one spouse leaves the marriage and does not come back). In either case, the innocent party may obtain a divorce since the marriage has already been broken.
- Moses permitted divorce as a civil ruler, not because divorce was pleasing to God, but because in certain cases it was the lesser of two evils (Dt 24:1-4). Our Lord Jesus and His apostles allowed divorce to the innocent party only when the marriage was already broken by unfaithfulness (adultery or desertion). Civil governments today permit divorce for almost any reason, but this is not the way God wants marriage to be regarded.
- "God intends for marriage to be a lifelong relationship. God forbids divorce except for unfaithfulness: adultery [narrow definition] and/or intentional desertion" (Kurth *Catechetical Helps*).

Unmarried people can sin against this commandment by:

1. _____ Galatians 5:19
1 Thessalonians 4:3 (313)
- People who are not married sin if they have sexual relations with anyone. This is called *fornication* or *sexual immorality* and it is forbidden by God. Sexual activity outside of marriage is against God and His word. Today, many people are unconcerned about sexual sins, but God is not mocked. Unrepentant fornicators will be punished.

Married *and* unmarried people can sin against this commandment by:

1. _____ 1 Corinthians 6:9 (316)
Romans 1:26-27 (317)
2. _____ Ephesians 5:4
3. _____ Matthew 5:27-28 (307)

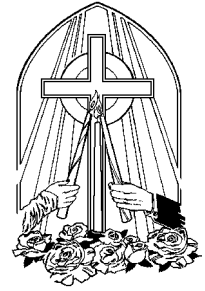
- Look at a longer list of sins against this commandment on p. 76 (bottom) of your catechism. List several of them here:
- People sin against this commandment when any of their thoughts, words, or actions are sexually unclean.

Our society has very loose standards in sexual behavior. Just about anything goes! The temptations to sin are many: indecent jokes, indecent books and magazines, indecent movies and pictures (pornography), indecent advertising, indecent dancing — all of which tend to make fun of marriage or lead people into fornication. Alcohol and drug abuse can also lead people to do things that otherwise they would not do.

Review

Marriage is:

- Established by God for the good of humankind
- Constituted by one man and one woman
- By mutual consent
- A life-long union
- Usually celebrated in a public service or ceremony
- Subject to the laws of the state (according to the fourth commandment)
- Often blessed with children



- From *Catechetical Helps*
by Erwin Kurth

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

1 Timothy 5:22b Do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.

2 Timothy 2:22 Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Assignment

- Bible Reading Schedule 12 from the book of Luke (Mon-Fri)
- Memorize the Sixth Commandment with Explanation (p. 72)