

Discipleship:  
An  
Introduction to  
Systematic Theology and  
Apologetics

The Doctrines of Redemption: The Law

The Heights Church April 9, 2017

## The Law – The Ten Commandments # 7

**You shall not commit adultery.** (Exodus 20:14)

- **As with the 6<sup>th</sup> commandment, Jesus extends the commandment beyond the physical commission to thoughts and fantasies.**

**You have heard that **it was said**, ‘You shall not commit **adultery**.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.** (Matthew 5:27-28)

- **While Jesus does not literally advocate self-mutilation, the hyperbole affirms how serious the sin is.**

**If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into **hell**. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into **hell**.** (Matthew 5:29-30)

## The Law – The Ten Commandments # 7

- **The seriousness of the sin arises out of the fact that marriage is a metaphor for the relationship between Jesus and the Church.**

**"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you **love his wife** as himself, and let the wife see that **she respects her husband**. (Ephesians 5:31-33)**

- **Rabbinic interpretation reasoned that unfaithfulness with regard to marriage may result in unfaithfulness with respect to God.**

**It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, **except on the ground of sexual immorality**, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. (Matthew 5:31-32)**

## The Law – The Ten Commandments # 7

- **Sexual immorality (*porneia* in Greek) is any sexual activity **except** between one man and one woman joined in marriage.**
- **The exception clause in Matthew is not present in the parallel verses in Mark and Luke.**

And he said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her, and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery." (Mark 10:11-12)

"Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries a woman divorced from her husband commits adultery. (Luke 16:18)

- **If an unbelieving spouse leaves their believing spouse, the believing spouse is free to remarry.**

But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. (1 Corinthians 7:15)

## The Law – The Ten Commandments # 7

And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them **male and female**, 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'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." They said to him, "Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?" 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. And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, **except for sexual immorality**, and marries another, commits adultery." (Matthew 19:3-9)

## The Law – The Ten Commandments # 7

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the **sexually immoral**, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

## The Law – The Ten Commandments # 7

For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. (Romans 1:21-27)