

## Then God Said...YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY

My seminary theology professor was a very bright and wise man. He had served as a pastor for years, and in that capacity, saw people during challenging times in their lives. He also had lived a full life. From those experiences, he gained wisdom.

A bit of wisdom he shared with his students was this: spirituality and sexuality are both basic human needs, and if they are suppressed, or not expressed in healthy ways, they express themselves in unhealthy ways. As human beings, we are made for spirituality, relationship with God. If we do not fill the God-shaped hole in our heart with the true God, we will go down other paths such as various kinds of paganism, interest in the occult and spirits, and so on.

As human beings, we are also made to express sexuality. Sex was given by God as a good gift to Adam and Eve to share with each other in their covenantal relationship. Through sex, they expressed their love for and faithfulness to one another.

In the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman, they promise two things. First, they promise to love one another always. Even when they do not feel loving toward one another, they will act in loving ways 24/7. Second, a couple promises to be faithful one to another. They forsake all others.

This is emphasized by The Seventh Commandment, *"You shall not commit adultery."* (Exodus 20:14) Adultery is sex outside the covenant of marriage. It breaks the promises of marriage. In sex outside of marriage, one or both partners are simply using the other, not expressing the union that was intended by God in sex, not expressing true love. The promise of faithfulness is also broken. This kind of sex rips apart the marriage vow, shattering intimacy and trust.

If the God given gift of and need for sexuality is not expressed, or suppressed, sexuality will come out in unhealthy ways. Sex is perverted in ways too numerous to list.

God views marriage highly, as evidenced by the Biblical comparison between our relationship with God as a kind of marriage, and going after other gods as adultery. Yet with God, there is forgiveness when there is sexual failure. This is the gift of God in Jesus. We remember these words of Jesus: *"Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."* (John 8:11b)