

Text: 6th Commandment

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

My dear beloved flock, the text for our meditation today is the Sixth Commandment and its meaning. *You shall not commit adultery?* What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.

Boys and Girls, I pray that you are doing well today. How important are boundaries? For example, playing inside or in the yard is good but playing in the street? Not good at all. Play has a boundary of inside the house or inside the fence. If you were to play in the street you could get hurt by a car pretty easily. The boundary exists to protect you and keep you safe. In our text for today, we see a similar boundary established by God in marriage between a husband and a wife. They are there for the good of the other, the husband for the wife and the wife for the husband. How can we honor this commandment and keep the marriage bond honored even if single? Ponder this question as you hear the rest of the sermon. You may go back to your seats and those who love you.

Commandments as a Boundary to protect neighbor

These commandments are easily understood, they are all to the effect that we be careful to avoid doing any kind of injury to our neighbor. But they are arranged in fine order. In the first fifth commandment they protect his treatment of his own person. Then they proceed to the person nearest him, or the closest possession next after his body namely, his wife, who is one flesh and blood with him, so that we cannot inflict a higher injury upon him. Therefore, it is explicitly forbidden here to bring any disgrace upon him in respect to his wife. Thus, the mention of adultery, because among the Jews it was ordained and commanded that everyone must be married. Therefore, also the young were early provided for marriage, so that the virgin state was held in small esteem, neither were public prostitution and lewdness tolerated as now. Therefore, adultery was the most common form of unchastity among

them. We are given this commandment as a boundary to protect and defend our nearest neighbors, our spouses

How often do we see violations of this commandment, this type of unchastity today? We see it everywhere that we look. On television, in books and magazines. As they say, sex sells. It's used as a way to get you to buy this product, eat this food, use this hair care product, buy that car, house, whatever it may be then you will get the hot babe or guy or at least look like them. This corrupts our thinking of the opposite gender that they are merely objects towards getting what we desire. We see it throughout our culture today, just look at how easily people move in together with no thought of marriage, merely lustful passions because they want the benefits without the work of marriage.

Thus why we need this commandment still today. Among us there is such a shameful mess and the very dregs of all vice and lewdness, this commandment is directed also against all manner of unchastity, whatever it may be called; and not only is the external act forbidden, but also every kind of cause, incitement, and means, so that the heart, the lips, and the whole body may be pure and afford no opportunity, help, or persuasion to breaking this commandment.

We could very easily say well that does not concern me. Then you are as truly guilty as the one perpetrating the deed. This command is a requirement of everyone, that everyone both live chastely himself and help his neighbor do the same, so that God by this commandment wishes to hedge round about and protect as with a rampart every spouse that no one trespass against them.

Jesus Christ died for you, for the forgiveness of all of your sins, including your sins against the sixth commandment. He lived a perfect life in your place, honoring the estate of marriage. Bearing your sins, He bled, died and rose again for you. He gives you of His Holy Spirit that you may indeed keep this honorable estate.

Keep this command because of God's honoring of this estate

See how gloriously God honors and extols this estate, He both sanctions and guards it. He has sanctioned it above in the Fourth Commandment: Honor thy father and thy mother; but here He has as we said, has made a boundary for it. He has hedged it about and protected it. Because of this fact, God also wishes us to honor it, and to maintain and conduct it as a divine and blessed estate, whether married ourselves or single. Why? Because, in the first place, He has instituted it before all others, and therefore created man and woman separately as is evident, not for lewdness, but that they should legitimately live together, be fruitful, beget children, and nourish and train them to the honor of God.

Therefore God has also most richly blessed this estate above all others, and, in addition, has bestowed on it and wrapped up in it everything in the world, to the end that this estate might be well and richly provided for. Married life is therefore no jest or presumption; but it is an excellent thing and a matter of divine seriousness. For it is of the highest importance to Him that persons be raised who may serve the world and promote the knowledge of God, godly living, and all virtues, to fight against wickedness and the devil.

In the second place, you must know also that it is not only an honorable, but also a necessary state, and it is solemnly commanded by God that, in general, in all conditions, men and women, who were created for it, shall be found in this estate; yet with some exceptions (although few) whom God has especially excepted. For where nature has its course, as it is implanted by God, it is not possible to remain chaste without marriage. For flesh and blood remain flesh and blood, and the natural inclination and excitement have their course without prevention, as everybody sees and feels. In order, therefore, that it may be the easier in some degree to avoid unchastity, God has commanded the estate of matrimony, that every one may have his proper portion and be satisfied therewith; although God's grace besides is required in order that the heart also may be pure.

Let me now say in conclusion that this commandment demands not only that everyone live chastely in thought, word, and deed in his condition, that is, especially in the estate of matrimony, but also that everyone love and esteem the spouse given him by God. For where conjugal chastity is to be maintained, man and wife must by all means live together in love and harmony, that one may cherish the other from the heart and with entire fidelity. May God continue to grant us His Holy Spirit that we may indeed honor our spouses and the estate of marriage, to graciously keep it.