

Embracing the Adventure #10<sup>1</sup>

March 9, 2008

Deuteronomy 5:18

I was trained in seminary to have an introduction to my messages .  
. . a way of drawing attention to what Scripture says . . .

Today, I don't have an introduction . . .

So please open your Bible to Deuteronomy . . .

We are in a series in Deuteronomy . . . a powerful book . . .

Written by Moses as he is on the brink of death and the nation is on  
the brink of success . . .

They are about to enter the promised land . . . Moses is about to  
enter the grave . . .

So God has Moses address the nation . . . Deuteronomy is the last  
messages from Moses to the nation . . .

And to us . . .

What we are going to read to day we call the 10 commandments . .  
. and they are that . . .

But they are more than that . . . these are the covenant relationship  
guidelines . . . that God is setting up with His people . . .

He is revealing who He is . . . by these commandments . . . and  
what He expects in those who want Him as their God . . .

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<sup>1</sup>Kevin Keener, DA Carson, Tim Jordan, and Currid

READ 5:1-17-18

Marriage is a covenant . . . it is entering into an agreement, that  
you will faithful to one and only one . . . and that "forsaking all  
others, 'till death do us part . . ."

Marriage itself is designed by God . . .

So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and  
while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with  
flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man  
he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the  
man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my  
flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of  
Man." Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother  
and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And  
the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.  
(Gen 2:21-25)

So marriage itself is a creation of God . . . it is designed by the  
King of Heaven . . .

But not only that, the way males and females are created was also  
designed by God . . .

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he  
created him; male and female he created them.  
(Gen 1:27)

Jesus said, "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."  
(Mat 19:4-6)

so male and female are made from God . . .

He not only designed marriage, He also designed the sexual relationship . . .

the sexual relation between husband and wife is designed by God and given as a gift from God to humans . . .

Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. – Heb 13:4

God is the One who designed both male and female . . . He designed the gift of sex . . . and He designed marriage . . .

The Bible presents marriage as a mutually exclusive, permanent bond between a man and a woman . . .

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.  
(Gen 2:24)

So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." – Mat 19:6

God is not the least bit embarrassed to let us know that He is the One who designed both male and female . . . that He designed marriage . . . and that He designed a sexual relationship for those who are married . . . and that marriage is a mutually exclusive, permanent bond between a man and a woman . . .

In fact, there is one whole book in the Bible that rejoices in marriage and the sexual relationship within marriage . . . the book of the Song of Solomon . . .

And passages like Proverbs 5 . . . Drink water from your own

cistern, flowing water from your own well. Should your springs be scattered abroad, streams of water in the streets? Let them be for yourself alone, and not for strangers with you. Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love. Why should you be intoxicated, my son, with a forbidden woman and embrace the bosom of an adulteress? For a man's ways are before the eyes of the LORD, and he ponders all his paths. The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him, and he is held fast in the cords of his sin. – Pro 5:15-22

Hey folks, that's in the Bible . . .

Sure is quiet in here this morning . . .

I hope I haven't shocked anyone this morning . . . all I'd done up to this point is tell us what the Bible says about marriage, about genders, and about the sexual relationship that is for only those who are married . . .

And only for those who are married . . .

READ v. 18 again . . .

He is lovingly, yet firmly, telling us that His people cannot commit adultery . . .

Our society will tell you . . . "Hey, everyone is doing it . . . and as long as it is between consenting adults . . . no one gets hurt . . ."

My friend, never, ever, fall for a lie . . . all lies are from Satan . . .

Satan would love for you to believe that sex is just physical . . .

Proverbs 6 . . . Be wise . . . He who commits adultery lacks sense;

he who does it destroys himself. – Proverbs 6:32

But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not become partners with them – Eph 5:3-7

don't fall for Satan's lie . . .

“Pastor, come on . . . this is 2008 . . . wake up and smell the coffee . . . it's just sex . . . it's just physical . . .”

Friend, that is a lie . . . the sexual relationship between husband and wife, between two people, is much more than just biological . . . and of course, there is a biological part . . . but there is also a spiritual part . . .

They two shall be one flesh . . .

The sexual relationship, the act, is not just biological . . . it is also spiritual . . .

We are not animals . . . we are made in the image of God . . .

And Scripture says the sexual union of a husband and wife is the closest form of knowing each other . . . it is a gift of God . . . and a form of becoming one with the other person . . .

They two shall be one flesh . . .

Bad math . . . but great truth . . .

So it is not just biological . . . it's also spiritual . . .

Scripture tells us in 1 Cor 6 . . . “Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two will become one flesh.”

The book of Ephesians reiterates this for us . . . “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” – Eph 5:31

Often the Scripture refers to the sex as “knowing . . .”

Time and again we are told in Scripture that sex is knowing . . . Adam knew his wife . . . and she conceived . . .

God says that the physically marriage relationship is a gift from Him . . . and it joins to people into one flesh . . . as they know and love each other . . . in the deepest, most intimate, and most personal way possible . . . and that includes sex . . .

And He says here in Deut. 5 . . . this relationship is reserved for marriage . . . alone . . .

Now, the wonderful blessing we have to live in this age is we have more Scripture than Moses had . . .

In fact, we have Jesus' commentary on this exact verse . . .

So please turn to Matthew 5 . . .

B/c in Jesus' day, men, and women, were saying this . . . “Well, I'm not an adultery, b/c I never actually committed the act . . . and Moses didn't forbid the looking . . . and the flirting . . . and the daydreaming . . . the only thing Moses commanded was not to do

the physical act . . . and I haven't done that . . . so I'm good . . ."

Really? Let's see what God has to say about what He meant when He had Moses write Deuteronomy 5 . . .

READ Matthew 5:27-30 . . .

What Jesus says . . . if one does not break the letter of the Law . . . but one wants to . . . one is guilty . . .

Jewish culture of the day expected Jewish women to wear head coverings to prevent lust . . . as if a man's lust is CAUSED by the woman . . . as if its her fault . . .

Jesus treats lust for what it is . . . a lusting of the heart . . .

Jesus places the responsibility of the person doing the lusting . . . on the person doing the lusting . . .

And yes, modesty is still biblically commanded for both men and women . . .

But the bottom line, Jesus says, is . . . you are responsible for your sin . . .

It is in your heart . . . the problem is not out there . . . it is much, much closer . . .

Jesus is clear . . . lust, as a form of adultery, merits a capital punishment from the heavenly court: eternal damnation.

The verb is in the present tense . . . suggesting that the looking in not a slight notice . . .

He is not condemning a person noticing a person's beauty, but to

imbibing it, meditation on it . . . seeking to possess it . . . dwelling on it in your thought life . . .

D.A. Carson says, "the man is looking at the woman with a view to enticing her to lust . . ."

In the context, by the way, Jesus is mainly addressing men, so that is why it is a man who is doing the daydreaming, but the same principle also applies to the female, as well as the male . . .

Daydreaming about how nice it would be if that other guy were your husband . . . instead of the husband you have . . .

Daydreaming about how you should have married so & so . . . instead of the one you are married to now . . .

That other man . . . he treats people nicely . . . he makes you laugh . . . you think he's everything your husband is not . . . he's a decision-maker . . . he's sensitive . . . he understands that you are a woman . . . if only you hadn't married your husband . . .

Jesus says that desire . . . in your heart, is adultery . . . even if you haven't acted on it . . . yet . . .

Given the chance, He is saying, you would act on it . . .

This is nothing to be played around with . . .

And if you say, "But Pastor, I've never committed the act of adultery . . ."

Wonderful . . . I'm happy for you . . . but that isn't what Jesus is saying here . . . He says that He knows your hearts and your thoughts . . .

And if you dwell on another person, and how they would make you happy, or happier, and you are already married . . . then you are guilty of committing adultery . . .

B/c you **want** to . . .

And that desire . . . that wanting . . . displays what is already in your heart . . .

And given the opportunity, if you could get away with it . . . Jesus says you are guilty as if you already did it . . .

Maybe its at work . . . the two of you seem to just hit it off . . . and she's attractive to you and seems to be attracted to you . . . and you seem to have the same interests . . . and there are sparks . . . and you start concocting plans of how to work with her again . . . you start figuring out how to make sure you go by her desk . . . you try to work with her on projects or try to talk to her . . . and the conversations are not about work anymore . . . but are starting to get much more personal . . . there is an emotional attachment . . . she makes you feel important . . . and wanted . . . and there is a sexual attraction towards a woman who is not your wife . . .

Or he's the guy at work that you really enjoy being around . . . he's funny . . . successful . . . and the conversations are not only about work . . . but are about how unhappy you are in your marriage . . . and how you are unfulfilled in marriage . . . and there is an emotional attachment . . . and a sexual attraction . . . towards a man who is not your husband . . .

Maybe it was just lunch together . . . maybe time spent on the phone . . . and its just talking . . . for now . . .

Or maybe its another believer . . . your husband isn't the spiritual leader you thought you were marrying . . . and this other guy,

maybe at church, or at work, or the neighborhood . . . he's a leader . . . and faithful . . . and so spiritual . . .

Or it's a woman who seems to love serving God . . . and your wife doesn't seem to love God that much . . . if only your wife could be like her . . . or if only that other woman could be your wife . . .

And you are drawn to that other woman . . . or that other man . . .

And the emotional attachments are starting to take hold . . . and you come to church or to work, not to serve God . . . but in order to see that other person . . .

Jesus' command . . . His admonition . . . His take on that . . . it's already adultery . . .

But Pastor, it hasn't gotten to that point . . . yet . . .

Please, wake up . . .

My dear friends, please listen, noone accidently commits adultery . . . it's planned . . . and pursued . . . and calculated . . . and hidden . . . it's not an accident . . . it is not an "opps . . ."

Jesus says it's adultery . . . planned . . . calculated . . . tested . . . figured out how to get away with it . . .

And it starts with thinking about someone who is not your spouse . . . and you think about that person . . . and dwell on that person . . . mediate on that person . . .

Jesus says, "You've committed adultery already. . ." as far as He is concerned . . .

B/c that emotional attachment, which is supposed to be with your

spouse, has been removed from your spouse, and is now on someone who is not your mate . . .

It's adultery . . . pure and sinful . . .

Sure is quiet in here today . . .

The Law says: "Thou shalt not commit adultery" – Exodus 20:14

This is a deep-seated lust which consumes and devours– a mediating, driving, seeking to possess another that does not belong to you

And you need to notice that Jesus says that the one doing the lusting is the guilty party . . . the lust you have is in your heart . . . and it is your responsibility . . .

Jesus tells us over in Mark 7 . . . For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, (Mar 7:21)

If you did not break the letter of the Law, but you wanted to, you are guilty . . . b/c the sin is in your heart . . .

You have the desire . . . you've just not been given the opportunity . . .

Jesus is saying, "If you thought about breaking God's Law, you have broken it"

REREAD vv. 28-30 . . .

The cure: pluck out your eye and cut off your hand

Your eye because it looked and lusted

Your hand because adultery is a kind of theft

What Jesus means: we must deal drastically with sin of adultery . . .

He says Hate it

Crush it

Exterminate it . . .

Never think, "I can handle this . . . this won't hurt me . . . It's just a litter flirtation . . . I don't mean anything by it . . . I can handle this . . . this is fun . . ."

Colossians 3:5 commands us . . . "***Put to death*** therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Did you hear that? . . . Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Jesus says it is not fun . . . He says it is adultery . . . and idolatry . . .

Never feed it . . .

Never dwell on it . . .

Starve it to death . . .

Wrestle against it . . .

Never give it a toehold . . . never give it a second thought . . .

Fight it . . . kick it . . . starve it . . . wrestle against it . . .

Kill it . . .

Destroy it . . . don't play with fire . . .

Because . . . On account of these the wrath of God is coming.  
(Col 3:5-6)

But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not become partners with them – Eph 5:3-7

Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.  
(Gal 5:19-26)

Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. – Heb 13:4

if you are married . . . stay married and stay faithful to your mate . . .

So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." – Mat 19:6

if you are single . . . you are to not partake of sex until you are married . . . 1 Corinthians 7 . . .

What if you've already sinned?

Turn to Jesus . . .

What if you are not a believer in Jesus Christ?

He stands ready to forgive you . . . of all your sins . . .