
MARRIAGE AND THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

Exodus 19 (NKJV)

1 In the third month after the children of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on the same day, they came *to the Wilderness of Sinai* [see-NAH-ee]. **2** For they had departed from Rephidim, had come *to the Wilderness of Sinai*, and camped in the wilderness. So Israel camped there before the mountain [or hill country].

3 And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: **4** 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and *how* I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. **5** Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth *is* Mine. **6** And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These *are* the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

7 So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words which the LORD commanded him. **8** Then all the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do." So Moses brought back the words of the people to the LORD. **9** And the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I come to you in the thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and believe you forever."

So Moses told the words of the people to the LORD.

10 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate [_____, dedicate] them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes. **11** And let them be ready for the third day. For on the third day the LORD will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. **12** You shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, "Take heed to yourselves *that* you do *not* go up to the mountain or touch its base. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death. **13** Not a hand shall touch him, but he shall surely be stoned or shot *with an arrow*; whether man or beast, he shall not live.' When the trumpet sounds long, they shall come near the mountain."

14 So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and sanctified the people, and they washed their clothes. **15** And he said to the people, "Be ready for the third day; do not come near *your wives*."

16 Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings [_____] and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who *were* in the camp trembled. **17** And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. **18** Now Mount Sinai *was* completely in smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly. **19** And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice. **20** Then the LORD came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain. And the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

21 And the LORD said to Moses, "Go down and warn the people, lest they break through to gaze at the LORD, and many of them perish. **22** Also let the priests who come near the LORD consecrate themselves, lest the LORD break out against them."

23 But Moses said to the LORD, “The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai; for You warned us, saying, ‘Set bounds around the mountain and consecrate it.’”

24 Then the LORD said to him, “Away! Get down and then come up, you and Aaron with you. But do not let the priests and the people break through to come up to the LORD, lest He break out against them.” 25 So Moses went down to the people and spoke to them.

Exodus 20

1 And God spoke all these words, saying:

2 “I am the LORD [Jehovah] your God [Elohiym], who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

3 “You shall have no other [_____] gods before Me.

4 “You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; 5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve [work for] them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity [_____] of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

7 “You shall not take the name [_____] of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

8 “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy [set apart as _____]. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work [_____], 10 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

12 “Honor [make _____] your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

13 “You shall not murder.

14 “You shall not commit adultery.

15 “You shall not steal.

16 “You shall not bear [_____] false witness against your neighbor [_____].

17 “You shall not covet [take _____ in] your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor’s.”

18 Now all the people witnessed the thundering, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. 19 Then they said to Moses, “You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die.” 20 And Moses said to the people, “Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin.”

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LIVING OUT THE MARRIAGE COVENANT

RESOURCES

The Marriage Covenant, by Samuele Bacchiocchi

Married for Good, by R. Paul Stevens

DEFINITIONS

Covenant: a legally binding _____ (**Proverbs 2:16-17** and **Ezekiel 16:8**)

Marriage: a covenant of _____ (**Malachi 2:14**)

THE MARRIAGE COVENANT

Bacchiocchi: **“From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible intertwines God’s marriage covenant to His people with our marriage covenant to our spouses.”**

Bacchiocchi: **“In Jesus Christ, God says to us, ‘I take you.’ We are free to consent to become covenant partners by responding, ‘We take you.’ In a sense, our salvation is nuptial. It begins when we say, ‘I do,’ to Christ’s marriage proposal. By accepting Christ’s marriage proposal, we become engaged or betrothed to Him in this present life.”**

Have you ever thought about your role as part of the _____ of Christ?

EXAMPLES OF THE FOUNDATION

1. _____

2. _____ artist _____

THE FOUNDATION OF MARRIAGE—THE COVENANT

Bacchiocchi: **“Marriage is like a house. If it is to last, it needs a solid foundation. The bedrock upon which the foundation of marriage must rest is an unconditional, mutual covenant that allows no external or internal circumstances to ‘put asunder’ the marital union that God Himself has established.”**

R. Paul Stevens: **“What is missing in most marriages today is what the Bible identifies as the heart of marriage: a covenant. Everything is superstructure. Understanding expectations, developing good communication (especially sexual), gaining skills in conflict resolution, discovering appropriate roles or creating new ones, making our marriages fun and free, becoming spiritual friends and sharing a ministry—these are the walls, the roof, the wiring, the plumbing and the heating. They are essential to the whole. But if there is no foundation, they will collapse with the whole building.”**

The marriage covenant enables spouses to _____ to each other no matter what happens.

The covenant is the foundation of, “for _____ or for _____.”

My spouse and I can share a common _____ in God to know that He can take the covenant that we made to each other before Him and insure our marriage will last.

THE COMMITMENT OF THE MARRIAGE COVENANT

Ephesians 5:25: Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her. Giving your life for someone else clearly demonstrates a _____ commitment.

Romans 5:8 says, **“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”**

Bacchiocchi: **“When Christian couples enter into a marriage covenant, they are committing themselves to maintaining their marital union, no matter what. This total commitment is set forth in the marriage vows: ‘for better and for worse, for richer and for poorer, in sickness and in health.’”**

The concept of a commitment only works if it is a _____ commitment. Bacchiocchi: **“Time changes things, including our looks and our feelings. . . . I am thankful to God that the change in my looks has not caused my wife to change her commitment to me.”**

Bacchiocchi: **“A continuing commitment to our marriage partners is not accomplished once and for all. It must be reaffirmed each day, when we are healthy or sick, wealthy or poor, happy or sad, successful or failing. In all the changing moods of life, we must determine by God’s grace to reaffirm our marriage commitments until death doth us part.”**

What happens if our feelings change? Change your _____, not your _____

CONCLUSION

A committed marriage doesn’t mean _____ or problem free. Both spouses continue to be sinners that are in need of God’s grace. Commitment causes _____—by definition, being committed to one thing means you are not committed to other things. Just be aware that a commitment to your marriage covenant will cost you.

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Notes from commandment #1:

Notes from commandment #2:

Notes from commandment #3:

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Notes from commandment #4:

Notes from commandment #5:

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From Chapter 2 of *The Marriage Covenant* (by Samuele Bacchiocchi)

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

Exodus 20:12: Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

Breaking it down . . .

1. The Hebrew word for honor is *kabad*. It strictly means, 'to be _____.' The grammatical way it's used in this verse is with the Piel stem and it means, 'to _____ heavy.' It implies intentional action.
2. We are to honor both father and mother _____.
3. This is the first commandment that has a _____.
4. The promise involves _____ parts.

Why should I do this?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Samuele Bacchiocchi: **The Fifth Commandment enjoins us to honor and respect our parents The way we respect and obey our parents is indicative of our obedience and respect for God and for those placed in authority over us. In practice, this involves welcoming our respective parents to our home without allowing them to control our home. . . . It involves seeking our parents' counsel, without allowing them to dictate their ideas.**

Question: How are we doing in respecting our parents?

THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT

Exodus 20:13: You shall not murder.

Breaking it down . . .

The Hebrew word for murder means premeditated or accidental murder.

Jesus' interpretation

Matthew 5:21-22a: You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' But I say to you that whoever is angry [literally, _____ to anger] with his brother without a cause [without purpose, or in vain (for a reason without weight—for an _____ reason)] shall be in danger of the judgment.

Jesus implies that when we call each other names and belittle each other, we are just as _____ as if we had murdered someone (notice that Jesus does not equate anger with murder).

Samuele Bacchiocchi: **The Sixth Commandment orders us to respect others by not taking their lives.**

Applications to marriage

1. Don't _____ your spouse
2. Don't be angry without a _____ at your spouse
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Question: How are we doing with respect to this commandment?

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THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

Exodus 20:14: You shall not commit adultery [used _____ between a man and a woman and also _____ of idolatrous worship].

Jesus magnified this commandment to include not only the physical act of adultery but also any kind of impure act, word or thought (**Matthew 5:27-28**). The seventh commandment summons us to be faithful to our marriage covenant by refraining from illicit sexual acts or thoughts. . . . The seventh commandment, then, calls us to honor our marriage covenant by being sexually faithful to our spouse both _____ and _____.

Let's hear what some of the great commentators have to say about this verse:

Adam Clarke: The act itself, and every thing _____ to the act, is prohibited by this commandment; for our Lord says, Even he who looks on a woman to lust after her, has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Geneva Study Bible (1599): But be _____ in heart, word and deed.

David Guzik: The New Testament clearly condemns adultery: Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication uncleanness, licentiousness. (Galatians 5:19).

David Guzik: Jesus carefully explained the heart of this commandment; it prohibits us from looking at a woman to lust for her, where we commit adultery in our heart or mind, yet may not have the courage or opportunity to do the act (Matthew 5:27-30) - we aren't innocent just because we didn't have the _____ to sin the way we wanted to!

Matthew Henry: our chastity should be as dear to us as our _____, and we should be as much afraid of that which defiles the body as of that which destroys it

What's your input?

THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

Exodus 20:15: You shall not steal.

The Eighth Commandment enjoins us to respect others by not stealing what rightfully belongs to them. . . This commandment forbids any act by which we dishonestly obtain the goods or services of others. We may steal from others in many subtle ways: withholding or appropriating what rightfully belongs to others, taking credit for the work done by others, robbing others of their reputation through slanderous gossip, or by depriving others of the remuneration or consideration they have a right to expect.

Applied to the marriage covenant, the eighth commandment summons us to live in true community . . . one spouse must not control the finances so that the other feels dispossessed. It means that we must not hold back any security from our partner as a safety measure or bargaining chip. It means that no sacrificial demands must be made of our partners in order to please our personal desires or whims. It means that we must not "steal" the individuality, dignity, and power of our spouses, by making decisions for them.

What do you think about that? Do you agree or disagree? Take a minute and discuss whether you agree or disagree at your tables.

Adam Clarke: A state that enacts ____ laws is as criminal before God as the individual who breaks ____ ones.

So if we are not to steal, let's look at this from an opposite standpoint . . . what's the opposite of stealing?

So, how does that work in marriage?

David Guzik: This command is another important foundation for human society, establishing the right to personal _____. . . Ephesians 4:28 gives the solution to stealing: Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.

Does that have anything to do with marriage?

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THE NINTH COMMANDMENT

Exodus 20:16: “**You shall not bear** [_____] **false** [lies, deceptions, disappointments, falsehoods] **witness** [testimony/evidence of things or people] **against your neighbor** [_____].”

The Ninth Commandment enjoins us to respect others by speaking truthfully about them. . . . This commandment is violated by speaking evil of others, misrepresenting their motives, misquoting their words, judging their motives, and criticizing their efforts. This commandment may also be broken by remaining silent when hearing an innocent person unjustly maligned. We are guilty of bearing "false witness" whenever we _____ with truth in order to benefit ourselves or a cause that we espouse.

Applied to the marriage covenant, the ninth commandment enjoins us to be faithful communicators with [and about] our spouses. In practice, this involves . . . learning to understand not only the words but also the feelings behind the words of our spouse. This enables us to interpret their thoughts and feelings more accurately. We can bear false witness against our spouses by projecting on them what we think they say or mean by certain actions. The ninth commandment, then, enjoins us to be faithful communicators with our spouses by learning to accurately understand, interpret and represent their words, actions and feelings.

Question: Where do you fall short in the application of that commandment (toward your spouse if you are married, toward your friends if you are not)? Discuss at your tables.

"How very strange that we have ever come to think that Christian maturity is shown by the ability to speak our minds, whereas it is really expressed in controlling our _____."
(Redpath)

THE TENTH COMMANDMENT

Exodus 20:17: “**You shall not covet** [desire, delight, take _____ in] **your neighbor's** [friend's] **house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's.**”

The Tenth Commandment supplements the eighth by attacking the root from which theft grows, namely, covetousness. . . . This commandment differs from the other nine by

prohibiting not only the outward act but also the _____ thought from which the action springs. It establishes the important principle that we are accountable before God not only for our actions but also for our _____.

Applied to the marriage covenant, *the tenth commandment enjoins us to be content [with] and grateful for our spouses*. In practice, this contentment is expressed in different ways:

- refraining from comparing our spouses' talents or performances with those of other spouses;
- welcoming and rejoicing over our spouses' achievements, gifts, and experiences without coveting them for ourselves;
- learning to express gratitude to God every day for giving us the spouses we have;
- maintaining the proper reserve toward persons of the opposite sex and reserving expressions of special affections for our spouses;
- avoiding making unreasonable demands on our spouses to force them to become like real or fictitious spouses we covet.

This commandment, in my mind, is the ultimate in internal _____ and governing one's emotions and desires (with the help of God). The first nine can all deal with some external behavior, but this one is purely internal. No one knows how well you obey this one but you and God.

David Guzik: The purpose of the law was to show us God's perfect standard, and how it is _____ for any of us to obey that standard.

CONCLUSION

Christian marriage, to be stable and permanent, needs to be built upon the foundation of an unconditional, mutual _____ commitment that will not allow anything or anyone "to put asunder" the marital union established by God.

PAUL STEVENS (A SUMMARY OF THE ENTIRE SERIES)

Covenant Between Israel and Yahweh

1. No other gods
2. No graven image
3. Not taking the Lord's name in vain
4. Remembering the Sabbath day
5. Honoring father and mother
6. No murder
7. No adultery
8. No stealing
9. No false testimony
10. No coveting

Covenant Between Spouses

1. Exclusive loyalty to my spouse
2. Truthfulness and faithfulness
3. Honoring my spouse in public and private
4. Giving my spouse time and rest
5. Rightly relating to parents and parents-in-law
6. No destructive anger/uncontrolled emotions
7. Sexual faithfulness; controlled appetites
8. Community of property with the gift of privacy
9. Truthful communication
10. Contentment and gratefulness