

**Exodus 20: 14 – The Ten Commandments, part 7, “You shall not commit adultery.”<sup>1</sup>**



**Main point:** Be faithful, reflecting the truth that God is faithful to us.

**Open with a short prayer, inviting God to teach us.**

**Background:** The Ten Commandments are God’s laws of love. God saved his people from slavery in Egypt, and then God defines the relationship: I love you, and this is how you love me back.

Exodus 20:1-11

- The first commandment: “Thou shalt have no other God before me.” God says: You’re my number one, because I saved you from slavery and made you my special people. Therefore, make ME number one for you!
- The second commandment: Don’t make an image of me. Don’t try to create me in YOUR image, to do what YOU want. Trust me and follow me as I am.
- The third commandment: Don’t use my name in vain. Wear my name well, reflecting Me.
- The fourth commandment: Remember the Sabbath day. God provides!
- The fifth commandment: Honor your mother and father: made in God’s image; legacy of respect continues.
- The sixth commandment: Do not murder. Don’t be life takers, literally and figuratively.

**Study:** Exodus 20:14: “You shall not commit adultery.”

1. *So: What is the seventh commandment?*
  - a. Don’t commit adultery.
2. *Who is this commandment about?*
  - a. The first four commandments are about our relationship with God; vertical.
  - b. The rest of the commandments are about how we treat others.
    - i. *Starting with?*
      - 1) Our parents.
    - ii. *Then moving toward?*
      - 1) Everyone else.
3. *The sixth commandment was about murder; don’t take life, whether with your words or your actions. Turning from the negative – “don’t kill” – to the positive – “give life!” Use your life, words, and actions to build up others’ lives.*
4. *This commandment is about adultery. What is the essence of adultery? Who does it hurt, and why does it hurt?*
  - a. Spouse
  - b. Unfaithful, breaking a promise, betrayal
    - i. *What is the promise made in marriage?*
      - 1) “Forsaking all others, till death do you part.”

---

<sup>1</sup> Some material gratefully borrowed from Fellowship Monrovia: <https://madeforfellowship.com/>  
© SpiritualEldercare.com

- ii. *What is that promise of “forsaking all others” meant to reflect? Who instituted the marriage commitment?*
  - 1) The marriage vows reflects God’s faithfulness to us. God gave himself to us; “I am your God, and you are my people.”
  - 2) Marriage is a story of Oneness with God, unity, unrestrained love – the picture of eternity with God.
5. *What are the damage and effects when someone breaks that promise?*
  - a. Very hard to rebuild trust
  - b. Relationship is broken, strained
  - c. Families are sometimes destroyed
6. So the commandment is to NOT be false to your marriage or relationship. *What is the positive way to say the same thing?*
  - a. Be ... faithful.
7. What is the benefit of faithfulness between two people?
  - a. Trust, security, peace, joy
8. *Why is **faithful** the model of God’s character toward us, his children?*
  - a. Even when we fail ... GOD NEVER FAILS.
  - b. Even when we leave God ... God never leaves us.
  - c. Even when we mess up and hurt others ... God heals, restores, redeems.
  - d. When we are guilty ... God lifts guilt, shame, and condemnation.
    - i. If at some point in life you were not faithful to a relationship, and you confess and turn away from that—agree with God—you are a new creature in God. God makes all things new! When confessed and repented, you are not what you *did*.

This commandment, as with all the others, is about LOVE. Don’t use something beautiful that God has given (marriage, sex, relationships) and make all about you, doing whatever you want; that ends up hurting God’s children. Be faithful.

Summary of The Ten Commandments: A love letter! An invitation to *love*, not a burden of law. It’s a beautiful invitation to relationship with God.

- Ask for any prayer requests for today.
- Close in prayer, naming people and needs listed.
- End with a song, e.g., first verse of Amazing Grace

## The Ten Commandments

**Exodus 20: 1-17:** And God spoke all these words, saying,

<sup>2</sup> “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

<sup>3</sup> “You shall have no other gods before me.

<sup>4</sup> “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath ...

<sup>7</sup> “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain ....

<sup>8</sup> “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates....

<sup>12</sup> “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup> “You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup> “You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup> “You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup> “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup> “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”