

Sovereign Grace Church
“Keeping Faith” outline
February 5, 2017

Exodus 20: 14; HC 108-109

This morning we will return to our look at the Heidelberg Catechism. At this point the Catechism is considering the seventh commandment which is not to commit adultery. We live in a society where remaining faithful to ones spouse has become optional. Pretty much anyone, man or woman, can file for a divorce and be granted one. This has not always been the case but as our society has increasingly lost its memory of a Christian understanding of life, accepted behavior has taken a serious turn toward hedonistic pleasure-seeking as the ultimate good.

As we continue down this path an appeal to an objective moral framework becomes more and more unintelligible to most people. However, the answer is not to banish a hedonistic passion for desire but to re-direct it to the ultimate good. One can resist ones natural compulsion to material pleasure only by replacing it with a greater non-material pleasure in fellowship with our holy God. We will consider the matter of “keeping faith” in our marriages in this context this morning.

1. The Problem of Divorce

I Cor. 7: 13-15; Matt. 5: 32; Dt. 24: 1

2. Preserving our Marital Vows

• **Guarding Ourselves I Cor. 10: 12-13; I Cor. 6:1**

• **Guarding our Spouse Matt 22: 39; Gen. 39:9; Jms 5: 16; I Peter 3: 1-6**

• **Guarding our Faith Lk 14: 26; Matt. 22: 37; Dt 23: 21, 23; Lk 9: 23; I Cor. 10: 14**

3. Our Challenge
Josh. 24: 15

Questions for Friendly Conversation

- 1. How is your marriage going? In what/whom is your most basic desire? How does this most basic desire provide a foundation for your marriage? Is it important for your most basic desire to be a shared desire? What is the difference between having material pleasure as your most basic desire vs. loving God before all else & living in His Kingdom?**
- 2. Why did you decide to get married in the first place? Did you have some sort of vision as to what the perfect marriage would be like? Was that vision biblical? How have you fared?**
- 3. Has God called everyone to be married? Does the single person suffer from some sort of social malady or is he/she just able to see more clearly than normal people? Or is this a false dis-junction?**
- 4. Is there one unique biblical paradigm for marriage? Is there at least some sort of general framework for marriage given in the Bible? If not, is there any ground to resist such anomalies as “same-sex marriage”? If so, what is it?**
- 5. How can we go about shifting our desires so that our marriages don't bear the crushing weight of idolatry? Why is it important to do this before one even thinks about getting married?**
- 6. The Bible indicates that there will be no marriage in Heaven! Is this because Heaven is perfect and marriages can't be?!**