

**Sovereign Grace Church**  
*“The 7<sup>th</sup> Commandment” outline*  
November 27, 2016

**Exodus 20: 14; HC 108 & 109**

*This morning we will return to our consideration of the Heidelberg Catechism and its teaching regarding God's Law. The seventh commandment commands us to “not commit adultery.” This commandment is plain on the surface but its application goes to all manner of sexual sin.*

*However, the basic concern in this commandment is the preservation of the covenanted state of marriage as the foundational building block of a Christian society. As our own society abandons any residual elements of her former Christian base is it very surprising that her standards for right conduct become debased, confusing and incoherent? We still have strong laws against child abuse and yet show no legal concern for the murdering of unborn infants. As the Christian base of our society is increasingly abandoned such incoherence will only get worse and order increasingly preserved at the hands of statist tyranny!*

*What is true of societies is also true of individuals. As persons reject their identity as image bearers of God they become desperate in their efforts to shape reality around their own thoughts and desires. This is the world in which we live and to be effective as disciples of Christ it is important to understand not only that God prohibits adultery....but also why. We will devote ourselves to these and other issues during this morning's sermon.*

1. Adultery is a sin against one's spouse and society. Gen. 39: 6b-9

2. Adultery is a sin against God. Psm 51: 4

- Biblical Family Structure Gen. 2: 24
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Denying God's family structure is denying God  
Eph. 5: 22-23; Rom. 1: 25

**3. Adultery is a sin against oneself.**  
I Cor. 6: 18; Matt 5: 28

**4. Adultery as a picture of Christ and His Church Hos. 4: 10-12**  
Matt. 28: 19-20; 5: 17

**Other Scriptures: Rom. 8: 1; Rom. 6: 1-2**

### **Questions for Discussion**

- 1. Even though our society has become almost standard-less with regard to most sexual conduct, she still retains some semblance of moral conviction when it comes to issues like child abuse, incest, bestiality and even adultery. Why do you believe this is the case? What is the prognosis for these particular sins if society continues to throw off all biblical constraint?**
- 2. What is the under-girding “value” that guides our society's abandonment of homosexuality as a deviant form of sexual relationship? How does our society interpret “human rights”? How does this value serve the preservation of biblical sexual conduct?**
- 3. How does the Christian fight sexual temptation in a world abandoned to it? Do you think the Muslim practice of entirely covering the female body when in public is effective? Why is it not? Is modesty a condition of outward apparel or the human heart? Why is this order so significant?**
- 4. Given Jesus' commentary on the “lustful look” (Matt. 5: 28) most everyone finds themselves guilty. The temptation here is to simply acknowledge our despicable condition and muddle through with an endless cycle of sin and repentance until the final day when we will be fully delivered. Though understandable, why might such a scenario be less than wise? Is Jesus adding to God's law here.....or is he describing the righteous character that would preclude such breaking of His law? What is our hope if He is describing a character trait which can be cultivated by His grace? Why is this significant even though perfection lies mostly “over the horizon?”**