

# Who is an Adulterer?

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study

Matthew 5:27-30

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## The problem with our focus on appearances and visible things restated:

- The Pharisees (religious elite) reduced God's commands to mere external acts or prohibitions. As long as a person did not commit a physical act, he or she was considered innocent of breaking God's law.
- The Pharisees, like us at times, had forgotten the "spirit" of the law.
- The Ten Commandments cannot be read in isolation. Consider the tenth commandment, **Exodus 20:17**, *"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet [to crave, long for, seek out, wish for, desire] 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."* Our Lord teaches us to be satisfied with all He has provided us and to turn away from everything else.
- The whole purpose of the law is to reveal utter sinfulness.
  - **Romans 7:7**, *What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet."*
  - **Romans 3:20**, *For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.*
  - **Romans 5:20**, *Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,*
  - **Galatians 3:24**, *So then, the law was our guardian [a person appointed to watch over a young child, train his public behavior, and keep him safe; tutor, leader, guide] until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith.*

## EXCURSION: The Doctrine of Sin

- Sin is a topic that is avoided and denied routinely. We become believers in evolutionary thought that we are evolving into better, kinder, and more loving people on our own.
- There is a failure to take sin and its consequences seriously. Understanding sin, makes the way of salvation clear.
  - Enables us to see the purpose of the death of Christ.
    - Why did Jesus die on the cross?
    - Why did Jesus purposefully go to Jerusalem?
    - Why did Jesus refuse the defense of His friends?
    - Why did Jesus say He could call angels to His defense, but He did not?
    - What does His death mean?
  - Enables us to see the meaning of regeneration (the New Birth).
    - The new birth does not make sense outside of a Biblical understanding of sin.
    - Lloyd-Jones goes so far as to say, "...if you dislike the New Testament doctrine of sin, it simply means you are not a Christian."
  - Enables us to see the nature of true evangelism.
    - True evangelism is more than a matter of "Come to Jesus," or "Make Jesus your Friend," or "Come to Jesus for a better life."
    - Jesus put obstacles in the way of some coming to Him.
      - Do you realize what you are doing?
      - Have you counted the cost?
      - Do you know what it means to deny yourself?
      - Do you know what take up your cross means?
      - Do you know what it means to follow me?
    - The doctrine of sin makes plain the Bible's teaching on Hell

- The Law makes plain our sinfulness and God's holiness. That repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ is necessary.
- Enables us to see true holiness.
  - Our conception of holiness is superficial at best without the law.
  - Again, we must see ourselves as "poor in spirit."
- Enables us to see the greatness of God's love.

## I. The Act (Matthew 5:27)

- A. The protection of the sanctity of marriage (**Exodus 20:14**, *You shall not commit adultery.*)
  - 1. The serious nature of the offense (**Leviticus 20:10**, *"If a man commits adultery with the wife of his neighbor, both the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death."*)
  - 2. When adultery is chosen, it is a decision to despise God's name and His law.
    - a) For clarity, God has ordained the sexual relationship to be between a husband (male) and a wife (female). Any sexual activity outside of that boundary is immoral and against God's law.
- B. The control of adultery is powerful over a person. When practiced, the person finds themselves under their tyranny. Paul dealt with it among the believers in Corinth.
  - 1. **1 Corinthians 6:13**, *"Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food"—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.*
  - 2. **1 Corinthians 6:15** *Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never!*
  - 3. **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**, *Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.*
- C. The cause of adultery is not external (pause and meditate) it is internal (hearts)
  - 1. **Job 31:9-11**, *"If my heart has been enticed toward a woman, and I have lain in wait at my neighbor's door, **10** then let my wife grind for another, and let others bow down on her. **11** For that would be a heinous crime; that would be an iniquity to be punished by the judges;*
- D. The Prohibition against adultery and sexual immorality
  - 1. **1 Corinthians 6:9**, *Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality,*
  - 2. **Galatians 5:19-21**, *Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, **20** idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, **21** 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.*
  - 3. **Revelation 2:22**, *Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works,*
- E. A Proverb on Illicit Sex
  - 1. It sounds great, but it ends bad (Proverbs 5:3-5)
  - 2. It reasons well, but it defies speculation (Proverbs 5:6)
  - 3. It creates curiosity but demands naivete'. (Proverbs 5:7-8)
  - 4. It promises pleasure but produces pain (Proverbs 5:9-14)
    - a) Sacrifice your honor (9a)
    - b) Suffer cruelly (9b)
    - c) Lose your wealth (10a)
    - d) Forfeit work position (10b)
    - e) Contract disease (11)
    - f) Endure regret (12-14)