



THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

Video can be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/NIUmHXcDplo>

“You shall not commit adultery”

Are you sure you know the real meaning of the Seventh Commandment when it says ‘Thou shalt not commit adultery’? We're going to go back into the ancient Hebrew language to find out exactly what it means and how we apply it today. Or should I say how do we stay away from it today?

Hello, everyone, Jim Staley, here, **Passion for Truth Ministries**, and I'm excited to talk about the **Seventh Commandment** today. We've been walking through the 10 Commandments one by one, going back to the original Hebrew, the culture, the context and discovering that we don't quite have all of them just right in our interpretations.

Most of us have been learning that we've been breaking most of the commandments all of our lives and not even knowing it. Some of the commandments we have radically misinterpreted, and the Hebrew makes it clear. So, let's do that for the Seventh Commandment. Let's see how it can affect us today. Let's dive in, shall we?

Let's go to Exodus chapter 20, verse 14, it says this, ‘*You shall not commit adultery*’, very simple, five words. But those five words have a radical effect on our lives today. We're going to focus on one single Hebrew word and that's the Hebrew word '**Naaph**'. That is the word for adultery. What does it mean?

Naaph means to *apostatize*. It means to break away from the wedlock with your spouse, it's to break the commitment and the oath and to walk in a completely different direction. It's to shatter the oath that was made. So, let's dive in a

little bit more into the deep end of the pool here and find out what the scriptures talk about when it talks about adultery.

Now, before we do, I want to show you the pictograph. If you've been following along with me on any of my teachings, I love to go back to the pictures that originally once existed in the Hebrew language, the Paleo Hebrew. Think Egyptian hieroglyphics, and you're right there. So, the word '**Naaph**' is spelled *Nun, Aleph, and Pey*. **Nun**, in the pictograph, was really kind of like a seedling that was coming out of the ground, it means life or seed, it can even mean fish or sperm or offspring. And then, **Aleph** is the strength of an ox, which is like the strength of a leader. And then **Pey** is also the modern Hebrew word for *mouth*, or *words* and it can mean to scatter. It means that your tongue, your mouth can scatter either the enemy, or it can scatter the words of God on the ground, like seeds that are on non-fertile soil.

So, when you put all of that together, the *Nun*, and the *Aleph* and the *Pey*, what you have in the context of adultery is: *adultery* takes your life, your *seed*, and your *strength* and it scatters it. It takes the very life force out of you and scatters it amongst this person, that person, and that person until there's no life left. I tell young people all the time, it's like having a rose. God gives you this beautiful rose when you are born, and you're supposed to take that rose, every single petal, and hand it to your spouse on your wedding day. Unfortunately, they will take this pedal off and take that pedal off - kiss this person, hold this person's hand, do this, and do that, and the next thing you know, the only thing left at the altar is a thorn. It's just a stem with thorns. And they wonder why marriage is so difficult.

They're not giving anything to the marriage that hasn't already been given away. You can't give something that's been given away. Now praise God for forgiveness. Thank the Lord for restoration. He's good at calling Lazarus forth from the grave. But when all is said and done, there are real consequences for our sins. And we're going to see them here in just a moment. There are five major types of adultery that I could come up with, and we're going to talk about each one. We're going to talk about physical adultery. We're going to talk about adultery of the mind, object adultery, emotional adultery, and last but not least, spiritual adultery.

So, let's just dive one at a time and find out exactly what each one of these means. Let's start with **Number One** - *physical adultery*. Physical adultery doesn't need much of a definition. It is a sexual connection with someone who is not your spouse. So, when we become sexually intimate with someone else that's not our spouse, that is physical adultery. The consequences are found in Leviticus chapter 20, verse 10, *the man who commits adultery with another man's wife, he who commits adultery with his neighbor's wife, the adulterer, and the adulterous shall surely be put to death*. There is some belief that only a

woman can commit adultery, and they point to scriptures in the Bible. Well, I'll point them right here to Leviticus chapter 20, verse 10, because it says, the adulterous *male*, the adulterous is a *female*, and both of them have to be put to death. Why? Because when you put yourself above the oath, and you choose to break your life, your oath and scatter your seed, and on top of that you're doing the same thing to someone else, destroying their family, their home, bringing destruction, and scattering their life and pulling the life out of that soul. Then God says, your life must be taken because you're destroying the image of God in the earth realm. And that is a serious, serious crime in the eyes of God. It deserves death.

When you get to First Corinthians chapter six, verse nine, we see the eternal condemnation of this. It says in verse nine, it says, do not know that unrighteousness will not inherit the kingdom of God. Do not be deceived, neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers will enter the kingdom of heaven. Do you see that ladies and gentlemen? Adulterers are right alongside homosexuals and sodomites. Can you believe that? It's in the same context, that those people will not inherit the kingdom of God. Now I'm grateful for grace, and I'm grateful for forgiveness. But adultery is so serious, that God says, If you commit it, without repentance, you will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven and the ramifications and the consequence for adultery on earth, regardless of whether you repent or not, is so serious, that the Bible says that your life becomes almost like crusty, dry, scattered bread.

Exodus chapter 22, verse 16, says this, *"If a man entices a virgin, who is not betrothed and lies with her, he shall surely pay the bridal price for her to be his wife."* Now, why did I put this scripture in here? This is not dealing with real adultery. But I thought for all the young people that are out there that are single, that think, well, it's okay to be with this person before marriage, we're going to get married anyway. Or it's just my girlfriend. I'm not planning on marrying. This is what the Bible says happens to a young man who entices a virgin and sleeps with her. The Bible says that you must marry her. Or if the father says, *Nope, I don't think you, you have even the right to marry my daughter, you're not good enough for her.* You have to pay the father, a full year's salary, the bride's price, regardless of whether you marry her or not. At the end of the day, young men would have to think, man, do I want to be with this person? Because if I get caught with this girl it will cost me an entire year's salary, and I'll be forced to marry her. I don't think I want to marry her.

You see, God's law thinks of everything. And nowadays, there's no consequence for sleeping around, or for being promiscuous, or committing even adultery. The only consequence in society is... it's not even hardly shameful anymore, because everyone has an excuse. But in God's realm, when we call ourselves a child of the Most High and we're carrying the banner of Yeshua, Jesus, we don't have the option to make God look bad. I'd rather go my entire life and be

miserable, than get divorced. And in it because of selfish reasons and carry the heart of God and the Word of God and the name of God through the mud at that level.

Proverbs chapter six says this, do not lust after her beauty in your heart nor let her allure you with her eyelids, for by means of a harlot a man is reduced to a crust of bread, and an adulterous will prey upon his precious life. Can a man take fire to his bosom and his clothes not be burned? Can one walk on hot coals and his feet not be seared? So is he who goes into his neighbor's wife? Whoever touches her shall not be innocent.

My friends, look at this scripture. This is amazing. The wisest man that ever lived told us in Proverbs chapter six, verses 25, through 29, that you can't walk on hot coals and not be seared. You can't play with fire and not get burned. If you do this, you will be reduced to a crust of bread, not just a piece of bread, but like the pizza bread, the pizza that burns in the oven and you go to cut it and it just shatters into pieces. That's what happens when we play with fire and when we commit adultery.

Alright, let's move into **Number Two** - *adultery of the mind*. Pretty simple. Jesus, Yeshua, in the New Testament makes it far more difficult to break the, or makes it much easier I should say, to break the Seventh Commandment when he extends the original intent and the meaning of it. In Matthew chapter five, verse 27. Let's read it, *'You have heard that it was said to those of old You shall not commit adultery. But I say to you, that if you even look at a woman to lust after her, you've already committed adultery with her in your heart'*.

My friends, this is extraordinary, because in the first century men were getting away with adultery because they had interpreted God's word wrongly. They believed that adultery was only for women. What they were doing was taking a wife, keeping her till they were not satisfied with her anymore, and then finding any reason, they would divorce her and then marry someone else to get around the laws of adultery. And that's why Yeshua says, *'I say to you, that whoever looks at a woman lusts on her'*, because the problem was almost always with the men. So, the Messiah was hitting his people right between the eyes, and letting the men know, *I see your heart, and you are committing adultery in your heart while you're pointing your finger at these women*. You are the ones that committed adultery over and over in your heart long before it ever happens in the flesh.

You know, this is a fundamental issue that we've got to solve ladies and gentlemen. Lust, not sex, is the threshold of adultery. Let me say that again. **Lust, not sex**, is the threshold of adultery. When we are lusting in our minds, we've already crossed the line. Now, I'm not saying that rogue thoughts won't come in. They absolutely will. But we've got to take them captive ladies and

gentlemen and lock them up and don't let them go any further or we will be in danger of adultery.

Number three. *Object adultery* is when the object of your passion such as work or hobbies exceeds and takes the place of what rightfully belongs to your spouse, you've committed object adultery, men are good at this. We have a lot of hobbies, we love to work and when our passions exceed that of our spouse, we're committing adultery in the object realm, object adultery. So, we need to be very careful that we don't work too much and that we don't have our hobbies take over our passions, our lives. I remember back in the day when motorcycling and dirt biking was my passion, I went to races every weekend, dragged my family along with me, and justified my hobbies that were for physical objects. They weren't for my family and just because they were with me, I could justify it. But at the end of the day, it was selfish. It was all about me. And my passions were more for my hobbies than they were for my family. I was committing *object adultery* and I had to repent of that.

Number four is *emotional adultery*. When you establish a close intimate connection with someone who isn't your partner, which generally includes some sort of romantic attraction, you might be finding yourself in emotional adultery. Let's go through like eight steps here and see how many of these some of you might fall into. And if you fall into more than one of these, you're probably finding your way very quickly into an emotional adultery relationship.

1. If you have frequent contact when you're not together, constantly texting and calling - you probably might want to be careful.
2. Frequent sharing of any kind of news you can't wait to tell this person any kind of news that happens in your life.
3. Constantly thinking about them when you're not with them. Your mind is just consistently going back to them.
4. Feeling understood by them more than your spouse. That is a big red flag. The moment that the opposite sex starts to feel like they understand you more than your spouse, you might be entering into an emotional affair.
5. Inappropriate sharing, you're sharing things that you know your spouse would not be okay with you sharing with anybody else.
6. Unfair comparisons to your spouse. If you're starting to compare your spouse to this other person, you might be entering into an emotional affair.
7. Getting butterflies when you have contact with him of any kind if you get a text or a phone message. You get that little butterfly, better be careful.
8. And last, but not least, you keep secrets from each other which is a big no-no. We shouldn't even be going to lunch with the opposite sex by ourselves. That is a dangerous scenario. I don't care what your current feelings are. It just looks bad on top of the risk that you're taking.

All right, let's move over to the last one, **Number Five**, *spiritual adultery*. This one is hands down, I believe, the most important because if you break physical adultery, you're creating spiritual adultery at the same time. When we say that we love YHWH with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength but then we choose to love things of this world. We're beginning to move into spiritual adultery when we don't do what our bridegroom desires and instead, we choose to do what we desire - that's spiritual adultery. And when we engage more with the things of this world than in the things of God, we might be committing spiritual adultery. Jeremiah chapter three, verse eight says '*I saw that for all the causes for which backsliding Israel had committed adultery, I had put her away and given her a certificate of divorce, yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear but went and played the harlot also.*'

You see, in the Old Testament, God even took the northern kingdom of the house of Israel, and because they stopped keeping the commandments, and they walked away, he gave them what they wanted, divorced them, and let them marry the nations. In the same way, if we do not keep God's commandments, if we do not follow the covenant with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, he will give us what we want, and he will divorce us. This horrible concept of: '*once saved, always saved*' is absolutely bad theology. It's an apostate doctrine that is not true. Throughout the scriptures. God says that you must finish the race. It's not about how you start. It's not about how good of an emotional moment you have, or if you accepted Christ. It's about how you live your life in the end.

Jeremiah three, eight is proof of that. God divorced his people because they chose not to follow Him the way that he desired. In the same way, we need to follow God the way that he wants us to. First John chapter five tells us exactly how he wants us to follow him. It says: '*for this is the love of God*'. In other words, take this as a covenant marriage verbiage. For this is the love of the marriage that we have with God, that if we keep his commandments, we love Him, and His commandments are not burdensome.

My friend, do you keep God's commandments? Is it a passion of yours to learn what He desires and then do them? Because he says that if you say that his commandments are burdensome, *you don't love him*. If you don't keep His commandments, *you don't love him*. So, the more that we keep his commandments, the more that we find out what pleases him. Like a wife, what does my wife want that makes her feel valued and appreciated, and connected with me? And then I **do** it. If those are burdensome to me, then I don't love her. Because doing things for your spouse should be the very things that you want to do because you love them. Romans 8:6-8 says it this way '*for to be carnally minded is death. But to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can it be. So then those who are in the flesh cannot please God*'.

In other words, if you are spiritual, you will subject yourself to God's law and His commandments. If you are fleshly and carnal, you do not want to subject yourself to God's law or his commandments, and you can't, because you are carnal. God made a connection and he said, *'If you love me, you will walk in the Spirit, you will keep my commandments, you will put spirit and truth together, and you'll be a true worshipper. But if you take the truth out of the Spirit, you take the spirit out of the truth. You have nothing but a clanging cymbal, says the Lord, and I will divorce you as fast and vomit you out of my mouth'*.

He says in Romans, excuse me, Revelation 3:15 and 16. He says, *'I wish you were hot or cold. But because you're lukewarm, I will vomit you out of my mouth'*. My friends, we have come to a place where God wants us to either get on board or get off the train. Because lukewarm is hurting His name in the earth realm. So many people are committing spiritual adultery, I should say, because they're walking away from the covenant. They're not loving God. In the end, did you know that the opposite of adultery is the word *faithfulness*? And would it be interesting to you to learn that the Hebrew word for faithfulness is *Amen*? It's literally where we get the word *Amen* from! And most of us grew up believing that the word *amen* was *hey, yes, that's the truth*. But it's far more than that. It means in Hebrew to build up, it means to support. It's like fostering a parent or nursing a child. It's to give the child something that he needs. That milk, that meat to grow. It's to move to the *right hand* in Hebrew, which I love because the right hand is like the right hand of God's strength and authority in Hebrew culture. So, when you are being faithful, you are not only building, you're supporting, you're not only fostering the relationship, you're strengthening, you're bringing it to a position of authority. It means to trust and or believe and it makes something permanent. That's what *Amen* means. That's what faithfulness does. And so if I can speak to some of you out there as we close today that have marriages that you're frustrated in, it's simply because you've chosen not to build or you've forgotten how to build, how to support, how to foster the relationship. You've stopped trusting and believing.

Let me give you an example. Not too long ago, a few weeks ago, we were at the festival of Sukkot, we were celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles. And one of our favorite parts of celebrating Sukkot is sitting around a bonfire at night. We were sitting around this bonfire, and it was so hot, but by the end of the day, there was nothing left, everything was ashes. When we woke up in the morning, you couldn't even tell that there was any kind of hot fire there the night before, there was nothing there. Some of your marriages are like that, where they used to be hot, it used to be burning, it used to keep you warm. But then you stopped feeding the fire with the fuel, with the wood that it needed, and it died out. But here's the great news. That night, even though everything was totally ashes, it was grey, it was white, and it looked like nothing was there. I put a whole pile of wood on there. And I took two napkins - two or three napkins,

and I just put them in the middle of the fire. I didn't even intend for it to light. I was just setting it up for later as the sun hadn't even gone down yet. And can you believe within five seconds, there was so much heat underneath the ashes that it lit those napkins on fire? Then within seconds, there were two or three feet of flame coming up from this bonfire. In other words, the Scriptures say this, the Holy Spirit can fan into flame if there's a single spark left in your relationship. Most of us walk away from relationships and don't realize that if they just looked at it, they're not dead. They might be mostly dead. As they said in the *Princess Bride* movie, from the 80s, *'It's only mostly dead'*. There's a big difference between mostly dead and not all the way dead. So, I encourage all of you guys out there that are struggling in your marriages. Look at the Hebrew word for faithfulness. It doesn't mean just not cheating on your spouse. It means to build them up, to support, to encourage. If you do just those things that I'm telling you right now of what the Hebrew word faithfulness means. Amen, you will say amen. Because your relationship will come back to life. It will come back on fire. But you've got to just build it, support it, encourage it, foster it, and seed into it. And I promise you, if you trust God and you believe that he can resurrect your relationship or put more fire into it, he will do that.

Let us find ourselves faithful at the end of the day. Let him tell us on that day of judgment, *'Enter in now good and faithful servant'*. My friends, let's not commit adultery on any level. Let's keep our minds holy and set apart. Make a covenant with your eyes, as Job says, and let us keep God's commandments. Follow after His spirit in truth and let the Holy Spirit be our guide, and let love enter into our hearts again for one another. Because that is the only definition of whether or not we truly know God! It is that we **love** and that's a direct quote.

My friends, it's time for us to head on to the next commandment, make sure that you go back and watch the rest of them again if you haven't already. Looking forward to the eighth one.

I'm Jim Staley with Passion for Truth Ministries, shalom.

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