

Exodus 20:14

Honoring God's Creation, Honoring, and Blessing of Marriage

Friday, June 17, 2022 ▫ Read Exodus 20:14

Questions from the Scripture text: What does this verse prohibit?

What is the proper relationship of God's provisions to the pleasures of those provisions? Exodus 20:14 looks forward to the evening sermon on the coming Lord's Day. In this verse of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that God has made marriage, and other things, pleasurable in order that we might enjoy His goodness in what He has designed, and therefore forbids seeking the pleasure apart from or in contradiction to God's design.

The sixth commandment, prohibiting murder, rested upon the fact that man is created in the image of God. The seventh commandment, prohibiting adultery, also takes us back to the creation. For, God made them from the beginning "male and female" so that the two could become one flesh in the God-joined covenant of marriage (cf. Matt 19:4–6, Prov 2:16–17).

Marriage is a glorious arrangement that not only supplied the man and the woman with an honorable and blessed estate (cf. Heb 13:4) but was the means by which they would be fruitful and multiply. So greatly is it to be honored that the connection with father and mother which is so strongly upheld by the fifth commandment must become a lower class connection by comparison to marriage (cf. Gen 2:24a), so that spouse always takes precedent over parent (cf. Ps 45:10c). Furthermore, marriage itself serves as a picture of Christ and His church, and marriage done well communicates many good things by analogy to the Lord Jesus and His Bride (cf. Eph 5:22–33).

What a glorious thing is marriage! Therefore, we praise the wisdom of God that has so blessed that special marital knowing of a man and his wife: the mutual and exclusive commitment, the treasuring of one not just like oneself but as being one with one's own self, the intertwining of heart and life, and even the privilege and pleasure of the marriage bed.

But just as murder disregards God in man, so also adultery disregards God in marriage. In fact, it seeks to have the pleasures of marriage apart from marriage itself: feasting of the eyes or attractings of others' eyes, intertwining of the heart, the special knowing of another and various pleasures that come with it. Whether it's immodest dress, the wandering eye, indulging thoughts of romance or lust, or even worse the involving of others in actions that stir up these sins of the heart—all of them seek pleasures that belong to marriage without the marriage to which they belong.

When we go after these with our heart, we show that we do not care for God's institution, for God's covenant, for the multiplication of God's image through it, or the display of God's redemption in it. It is bad enough that adultery, fornication, pornography, etc. communicate that we do not need our spouse to have the pleasures that belong properly to marriage. Even worse, it communicates that our pleasure is chief and that other things are a means to the end of our pleasure, putting ourselves and our pleasure in the place that rightfully belongs to God.

Chastity is much more than refraining from sexual sin. It is a commitment to enjoying only those pleasures which come in the way that God has designed and commanded them, because He Himself is our chief joy. Indeed, once a man and woman are married, chastity actually demands their romantic enjoyment of one another, of their conjoined life, of the marriage bed (cf. 1Cor 7:3–5). For it is the Lord Who has given these as part of the goodness of marriage, which He has designed for so many good purposes.

Why is marriage good? What purposes does it have? Whose marriages' health ought you to be guarding and promoting? How do you do that for yourself? How do you do that for others?

Sample prayer: Lord, we bless Your Name for the good gift of marriage. Preserve each of us for our spouse alone, and give us pleasure in the exclusive fellowship and fecund fruitfulness of marriage. Make us to be zealous for faithfulness in others' marriages as well. Give us modesty of dress and behavior and a chastity that delights in You and Your good design. Forgive us and help us by the life and power of Christ, in Whose Name we ask it, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP45B "Daughter, Incline Your Ear" or TPH174 "The Ten Commandments"

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Exodus chapter 20 verse 14. These are God's words. Use shall not commit adultery So far the reading of God's inspired and and Aaron twerked. Remember that the first four commandments dealt very directly with God. Himself worship the right God in the right actions and the right manner at the right times.

And then in the fifth commandment that to honor or glorify as it were a father and mother because authority has God's own authority invested in it. There. All authorities are appointed by God and under subsidiary to the authority of God and Father and mother have been set over us.

And we must respect God's authority in them and starting with that the father and mother and the image of God and man, which prohibits murder. And now the prohibition of adultery because God is the one who has created and designed marriage and its benefits and then also the next commandment the eighth.

Commandment, you shall not steal. Because God is the one who appoints to a, man, his place and his property, in God's providence, these all come from the first three chapters of Genesis of the first two chapters of Genesis, We learn about creation ordinances and the way God designed us, and what he designed us

for and how we are supposed to be imaging him glorifying him and enjoying him.

And then the last two commandments touch our mouth and our heart with respect to our our neighbor, which will be hearing in a couple weeks time, we'll hear nine, Lord willing. And then in a few weeks time we'll hear the 10th commandment Lord willing. But today, we have, you shall not commit adultery, just as the prohibition of merger arrested upon the fact that men has created in the image of God, the prohibition against adultery prohibition against heart, desires for and imaginings about that relationship, emotional, and physical that exists for a husband and wife alone, and must never must never be indulged in before marriage.

Or with someone else to whom you are not married, indulging. In those things, outside of marriage is called adultery. And by prohibiting it by commanding us, not to have marriage things without knowledge reality in making this prohibition. The spirit takes us again back to the creation. God is the one who made them from the beginning male and female.

Jesus says in Matthew 19 verse 4 through 6 God made them male and female so that the two would become one flesh in a god joined covenant. In this binding of the two together as one. And it is that covenant, that is expressed that binding together that God does between a husband and his wife that is expressed in their identified with one another and their romantic enjoyments.

Emotionally of one another and their willful willing volitional commitment to one another and even their enjoyment of the marriage bed. Marriage is a glorious arrangement. That not only supplied the man and the woman with an honorable and blessed estate, Hebrews 13 verse 4. Marriage is honorable God made it, honorable and so it is a good thing to be married.

So this commandment is also a commandment that reminds us that papist prohibitions against marriage are wicked and against that which God has called honorable enforced. Vows of not getting married are an attack on how honorable marriage is just like fornication or adultery or other and worse. Perversions are an attack on how honorable marriage, is what God honors.

We should honor. And so the mirror marriage is honorable and in that verse in Hebrews, 13 verse 4, it says the marriage bed is undefiled. It is good. And right, for a husband and wife to enjoy each other emotionally and physically and yet outside of marriage. The use of that bed would be indeed defiled and wicked just because God has created something to be good and enjoyable in that elastic state that honorable estate of a husband and wife being married to one another.

It doesn't lend any of its goodness outside of marriage. In fact, desire for the romantic pleasure of being, all butterflies and feeling like you're walking in the clouds and emotionally mushy about someone, The desire to feel that way outside of marriage is dishonoring and defiling of mind and the desire or action.

Well, action on the romantic thing as well, but the desire or action for the enjoyment of the physical part, the marriage bed, that would be undefiled, within marriage, but the desire for it or any action out of the that desire, for the pleasures that come from that apart from marriage is a defiling of, not only the mind and the heart, but also of the body, it is something to which God gives us up when we are Godless in our worship, in our thinking, in our view of ourselves and our life.

And so when he says, you shall not commit adultery, He's giving us a command that if we break it in heart or mind, we can read in Romans chapter 1, like we heard preached last night in the midweek sermon that that is receiving. In our bodies, the dew penalty for our sin.

Now it's true. We heard last night homosexuality, which is a special and special in the, in the way of, especially horrible form of adultery and dishonoring of marriage, that that is worse. More heinous than even fornication or adultery, but God designed marriage and God loves marriage and he calls the marriage bed, a blessed marriage itself, a blessed to state and the marriage bed undefiled.

And not only was it not only does marriage provide the men and the woman with an honorable and blessed to state for themselves. So that the man would not as it were be alone and without the the wife who would complete him and the woman without a husband who had complete her.

But it was also means by which they would be fruitful and multiply the man needed the woman especially for for being fruitful and multiplying. And so important is marriage that when a man gets married, he must leave his father and mother, According to the end of Genesis 2, and when a woman gets married, she must forget her father's house.

According to Psalm 45 verse 10. And so we already learned just two weeks ago, how important it is to honor Father and Mother that that is a very important connection that God gives us in the first part of our life. But when it comes time to be married. Marriage is so important, a connection that honoring father and mother actually takes a back seat.

It becomes a secondary concern and it must intentionally be changed your relationship to your parents. In order to identify with your spouse, to be joined to your husband, to be joined to your wife. Furthermore, the Lord has honored marriage as a picture of Christ and his church marriage done, biblically done, rightly done.

Well, communicates many good things by analogy, to the Lord Jesus and his bride. And we learned that not too long ago and Ephesians 5:22 to 33. So marriage is a glorious thing and we praise the wisdom of God that He has. So blessed. The the special marital way in which a man knows his wife.

There are mutual commitment. They're exclusive commitment. Treasuring Treasuring each other not just like they treasure themselves but as their own self marriage, brings an intertwining of heart and life and the privilege and pleasure of the marriage bed. And so to try to have any of these privileges and pleasures that are supposed to be from marriage alone, whether the pleasure of the marriage bed, or the privilege of bearing children of fathering or or bearing a child, the intertwining of your heart and life with one other individual, which often happens.

Even with kids your age when When I was a kid they would call it to boyfriend or girlfriend. And when your grandparents were kids, they called it going steady? I think a little later, they just use the word together, but any of the intertwining of heart and life, all of these things that try to have some of the pleasures or some of the privileges that are designed for marriage alone.

Without marriage disregard's. God when it comes to marriage and when it comes to those pleasures just like murder disregards, God and His image. When it comes to another person. We talked about that last week, So also adultery disregards, God when it comes to thinking about marriage and romance and the privileges and pleasures that are designed for marriage alone.

And so, just like we learned last week that if you, if you have animosity in your heart towards someone or, if you call them names or have a quick and fiery, reflex or retorts to them, that you're actually despising God and his image in that person. And so it's a much more.

It's a much greater deal than we are inclined to think. So also, now in this commandment, we discover that if we indulge romantic fantasy and falling in love, even the idea of falling in love as opposed to romancing, the one who is your spouse and maintaining a heart and mind of identification with them and affection towards them.

Even the idea of falling in love and toying with it, especially with respect to a particular individual in your mind. Let alone in your social circles to do. So is to disregard God and His glory in the marriage. Covenant, in the gift of marriage in what marriage is as a binding that God makes between a man and a woman and it is a disregarding of God.

It doesn't treat marriage as honorable and the marriage bed as holy or undefiled. And so it's actually a much bigger deal, you know, when we talk about, you know, trying to stay away from those 19th century romance novels, it's boggles my mind. Why? People think that romance novels written in the early 2000s are somehow mentally or morally more advantageous, to just then, or better or worse?

Sorry. Mentally or morally. Worse than romance novels written by Jane Austen, Jane Austen's just old and maybe a better writer almost certainly a better writer. But the indulging of the thoughts and fantasies and emotions is the same and it doesn't help you maintain that desire to have that which is honorable before God.

It makes romance its own end rather than your spouse. The end of your romancing and often those who are very romantic before marriage, because romance has been the main thing for them. Once they have their spouse, they are not very romantic within marriage because they have gotten things out of sorts, and they are not honoring what God honors.

And so it really is a matter of knowing God and calling blessed what he blesses calling honorable what he what he honors finding pleasure in the place that he has appointed for it. And so whether it's in modest dressing, which attracts the kind of attention from those who are not your husband, or your wife, or you're wandering eye, which gives that attention to someone, whether they are in modestly, dressed or not, The indulging of thoughts of romance or the indulging of thoughts of lust or even worse, the involving of others in actions that stir up these sins of the heart.

All of them seek pleasures that belong to marriage apart from marriage to which these pleasures belong. When we go after these, with our heart, we show that we are despising. We are not caring for God's institution for God's covenant for the multiplication of God's image bearers. That is to come through his blessing upon marriage We show when we go after these pleasures.

These marriage pleasures without marriage. When we go after them with our heart, we show that we do not care for the display of God's redemption in marriage that picture of Jesus. And his church, wouldn't it be a horrible thing for us to buy? The way our hearts and minds function, romantically to imply by analogy.

That Jesus goes after many brides or that a Christian can fantasize about other gods or other redeemers. We despise the purposes and nature of marriage as bad enough, that things like adultery fornication pornography and so on Communicate that you do not need a spouse to have the pleasures that belong properly to marriage.

But even worse than saying, I do not need a spouse such things communicate, that pleasure is my chief, and, and that other things are a means to the end of my pleasure, I've heard pornography and fornication and such things preached against, especially when I was in youth group growing up, they would preach against it saying, how much better it's going to be if you wait, and if you wait and if you, if you restrain yourself and then finally, you get married, it's gonna be so much more.

Wonderful. The problem is, that is an appeal to a desire for intensity of pleasure and supposing that someone living for pleasure was able to follow the advice. He gets into his marriage or she gets into her marriage and her heart wants what it once. Pleasure is our hearts. Chief end isn't God and his glory, and therefore in her marriage.

She doesn't delight to please her husband, His heart's. Chief end isn't God. And his glory, and therefore, in marriage. His chief, he delights to please the wife and God has given to him someone who has learned to live for themselves and to live for pleasure. Well, not actually end up enjoying it.

The way that the well-meaning youth group teachers said. So because they forgotten God, The reason behind this commandment, the the dynamic that makes us want to obey this commandment is to enjoy God and have him as our chief end and therefore to enjoy the things that he has created in the way that he means for us to enjoy them for the purposes for which he has designed them.

If pleasure becomes our chief end, then other things become a means to the end of serving pleasure and that's something that can be done, even if you are not committing adultery. Even if you are not fornicating, you can dishonor the marriage bed by seeking your own interests, instead of your spouse's, as you see why.

How it's so important to understand the commandment in connection to God as our Creator, as our Redeemer, as the one who has designed marriage, that we would honor marriage. And that we would seek the blessing in it, that God has attached to it and not some corruption or disproportion.

Chastity. Therefore, as much more than refraining from sexual sin, it is a commitment to enjoying. Only those pleasures that come in the way that God has designed and therefore, according to God's commandments, because he himself is our chief joy. Indeed. Once a man, and a woman are married chastity, demands their romantic enjoyment of one.

Another their intertwined life. With one another, the marriage bed, the Apostle and first Corinthians 7 verses, 3 through 5 says this. There were those apparently in Corinth, who thought that it would be ultra spiritual for a husband and wife to, not be so romantic with one another in their affections to not be.

So, to not enjoy the marriage bed, that is undefiled, with the fact of the matter is, once you do get married, the seventh, commandment requires you, to be romantic with your husband or your wife, It requires you to view them. As part of yourself as to view yourself in a way that is intertwined with and united to.

Then it requires you to enjoy the marriage bed and particularly to give that enjoyment to your spouse and as the Lord who has given these as part of the goodness of marriage. And so we should treat marriages good. And we should honor the Lord in enjoying its goodness, but in enjoying it's goodness only within marriage and let's pray, Our Father in heaven.

We thank you for this commandment. We thank you for telling us about how you created us and how you created marriage. We thank you for making giving us more instruction and application about it throughout your word. And now Lord, we pray that you would bring our hearts to delight in you that you would be your glory would be our chief Purpose and enjoyment of you would be our chief Pleasure.

So that whenever we think about something in our life, the way you designed it would be the governing principle and enjoying how you have made it. Enjoyable would be our chief enjoyment of those things. Help us Lord, this is so opposite. Our flesh and we live in a culture that is dominated by the flesh.

And so we pray for your spirit who is almighty to apply. To us the character, the desires, the delights of your son, our Lord Jesus upon whom we depend and in whose name, we ask it. Amen.