

**UPPER ROOM ADULT BIBLE CLASS**

**Fall/Winter, 2018**

**Pastor Jim Otte**

**“Foundational Truth for a Confused World: The Ten Commandments”**

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**Session Eighteen: The Sixth Commandment – Thou shalt not commit adultery.**

**As God’s “beloved,” cherish the sacredness of marriage, in word and deed.**

**(Luther) “We should fear and love God that we may lead a chaste and decent life in word and deed, and each love and honor his/her spouse.”**

**From Previous Session:**

- a. Church bodies run the spectrum of belief and practice, when it comes to their positions on social issues related to the 6<sup>th</sup> Commandment, i.e. gay marriage; sexual immorality; etc. The dividing line is between those who adhere to “Conservative Biblical Principles” and those who espouse to a more liberal approach.

| <b>Conservative</b>   |  | <b>Liberal</b>  |
|---|--|---|
| The Bible “is” the Word of God  |  | The Bible “contains” the Word of God  |
| The whole Word is authoritative   |  | Authority is divided: Jesus trumps St. Paul; NT trumps OT; etc.   |
| Not everything Jesus said is written down   |  | If Jesus didn’t say it, it’s ok   |
| Scripture interprets scripture  |  | The scripture which is God’s Word interprets scripture  |
| Context matters   |  | Context matters   |
| Basics of Christianity are essential, i.e. virgin birth, resurrection of Jesus, etc.                    |  | Basics of Christianity can be denied or labeled “myth” because the Word of God is more than the Bible                         |
| Historical-grammatical translating of words   |  | Historical-critical translating of words  |
| Goal: translate and apply the Word without imposing pre-existing beliefs, feelings, or social sciences. |  | Goal: to correct mistranslations, misunderstandings, and misapplications based on pre-existing knowledge from social sciences |
| <u>Danger of Activism:</u> self-righteous attitudes   |  | <u>Danger of Activism:</u> failing to call for repentance,  |

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| toward sinners; looking at others' sin, not self |  | continuing in sin, rejecting need for forgiveness |
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- a. These foundational differences account for the wide spectrum of positions.

**1 Corinthians 6:6-11, 13-20.** *Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor [a]effeminate, nor homosexual (lifestyles), <sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup> Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.*

- a. **“unrighteous”** – those who continue in a life-practice of intentional and unrepentant sin, teaching others to follow it.
- b. **“Do not be deceived”** – deception is common when people
  - i. justify their sin (“It’s natural for me,” “I’m the kind of person, who...”)
  - ii. attempt to normalize it (“nobody’s perfect”),
  - iii. or when “sin” is redefined as “poor choices,” but not as something in which you distance yourself from God’s love
- c. **“fornicators”** – sex between unmarried people; often translated as “sexually immoral.”
- d. **“Idolators”** – worshipping self
- e. **“the effeminate”** – **malakos** – the technical term for the passive partner in same sex relations.
- f. **“nor homosexuals”** – **arsenokoitays** – a male who initiates sexual relations with other men
- g. **“thieves...covetous”** – one leads to the other
  - a. **“drunkards...revilers”** – one leads to the others
  - b. **“swindlers”** – cheating others for personal gain
  - c. **“but you were washed...sanctified...justified...”** – referencing Baptism as the touchstone of a change in heart and lifestyle.
    - 1. From a “Me-Centered” life to a God-Centered life.
    - 2. Grace and mercy toward self and others.
    - 3. Learning you are loved even when told “No.”
    - 4. Daily living in the joyful security of being God’s beloved.

*Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body. <sup>14</sup> Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power. <sup>15</sup> Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? May it never be! <sup>16</sup> Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one body with her? For He says, “THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.” <sup>17</sup> But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him. <sup>18</sup> Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the [e]immoral man sins against his own body. <sup>19</sup> Or do you not know that your body is a [f]temple of the Holy Spirit*

*who is in you, whom you have from <sup>9</sup>God, and that you are not your own? <sup>20</sup> For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.*

- a. **“not for immorality, but for the Lord”** – the Greek view (dualism) of the body (stoma), was that the physical self was simply a vessel in which the spiritual self (pneuma) was trapped. The stoma was inherently evil; while the pneuma was inherently good. Therefore, one could do whatever one wanted in the stoma without any effect on the spiritual self.
- b. **“your bodies are members of Christ”** – Paul turns the Greek view upside down. The stoma is highly valued because it is joined to Christ. The spirit and the body are joined as one. What you do in your body affects your spirit.
- c. **“he who joins himself to a prostitute is one body with her”** – sex outside of marriage creates a corrupted oneness, with no blessings from God.
- d. **“Flee immorality...the immoral man sins against his own body.”** – the consequences of sexual immorality affect the individual in his/her conscience, decision-making, judgment, sense of security, self-respect, and respect for others.
  - a. Self-gratification, as a motivator or driver, has a way of permeating other settings in life: using others for your own benefit.
  - b. Asserting your own power over others, as a way to control them
- e. **“your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit”** – As a “temple,” the body is where the Holy Spirit communicates with you (gut/heart).
- f. **“you are not your own...For you were bought with a price”** – The bottom line question: **“Whose are you?”**
  - a. *“It’s my body, I can do what I want...”* offers no security or enduring sense of belovedness.
  - b. *“I belong to Jesus, who paid the price for me...”* offers the security of highest worth and being beloved forever unconditionally.