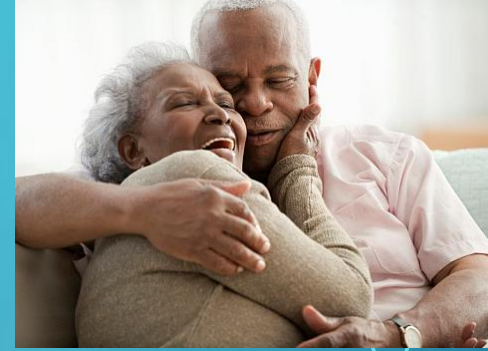




# THE BEAUTY OF MARRIAGE

## 7<sup>TH</sup> COMMANDMENT

EXODUS 20:14



# 1. BIBLICAL MARRIAGE IS COMPANIONSHIP

- Before we understand what **adultery** is, we need to understand what **marriage** is according to God
- (Gen. 2:18-24) God intended for one man and one woman to be for each other. They are each other's **companion** for life (Mal. 2:14). (ill: the marriage vow)
- (v.20) In this companionship they are to **complement** each other, and be a help-mate for one another.

## 2. IT IS A COVENANT BEFORE GOD

- Second, marriage is a covenant before God and man (Prov. 2:17; Mal. 2:14-15). Therefore God is a **witness** of our marriage covenant. Our pledge is made before God.
- Sadly, the concept of a covenant is rather foreign to many of us today. A covenant is a **binding agreement** that remains intact even if one of the parties breaches it.
- (Mark 10:7-9) Let no man separate a marriage



### 3. CLEAVE TO ONE ANOTHER



- (Mark 10:7-9) The two shall become **one union**
- (Genesis 2:24) The word “cleave” in our modern English should render “**united to,**” the idea in Hebrew literally means to be **glued** to something. (ill: crazy glue physically)
- (Gen. 2:21-22) **Exclusivity** is vital as marriage is not just a union, but a **reunion** of two persons reuniting into one, never to be separated—cleave to one another intimately

## 4. A PICTURE OF CHRIST AND THE CHURCH



- (Eph. 5:22-33) Many people focus on love and respect, plus the difference in gender needs in this passage. But the actual theme of Ephesians is the relationship between **Christ** and the **Church**, and the **identity** of the church.
- Christ cherishes His bride and will not betray her or let her suffer. (Mal. 2:14-15) This “faithless” comes from us not setting Christ as our example in loving our wife (the church).

# GOD HATES THE HURT IN MARRIAGE



- Therefore, adultery is the breaking of a **covenant**, failing to serve our **companion**, physically tearing a **union**, and dishonouring both God and the witnesses, and being “faithless” in our **faithfulness** to our spouse (Mal. 2:13-16, Prov. 2:17)
- Moreover, there are **other hurts** and pains that go beyond the emotional pain. i.e. children, family, finances, health...the list goes on

## JESUS EXPANDS THIS COMMANDMENT



- (Matt. 5:27-28) Instead of focusing only on just the **act** of adultery, Jesus expands the **implication** of this commandment for all of us—concerning **lust**
- (Job 31:1) We can be unfaithful to our spouse with our **thoughts** and our sights. (ill. head turn)
- The “harmless” entertainment we play in our head is **not harmless** at all (James 1:14-15; 1 John 2:15-17)

## WHAT IF YOU ARE TEMPTED?



- Don't forget there are always **consequences** (Gal. 6:7-8; Jam. 1:14-15). Don't underestimate temptation.
- The key word in the Bible is **FLEE** (1 Cor. 6:18; 10:14)
- We should also flee with our **eyes** (Job 31:1, 1 John 2:16)
- The formula is simple: **flee and turn**. After we flee from the situation we need to **turn toward** our main pursuit—Christ and His righteousness (1 Tim. 6:11; 2 Tim. 2:22).
- Please remember there is always a **solution** (1 Cor. 10:12-13)



# CONCLUSION

- The 4 “C’s” of marriage:
- Companion, Covenant, Cleave, Christ & Church
- Adultery can be costly, dangerous, and harmful, besides the fact it is totally wrong
- We can commit adultery with our thoughts
- The formula against lust: Flee and Turn
- God is love—let us all pursue Him together

