

KEEP YOURSELF PURE

"Thou shalt not commit adultery." Exodus 20:14.

The very nature of the subject is delicate. Plain speaking about it is far from fashionable in our day and age. Such themes are usually left to the poet, the novelist and the movie actor to handle. The lamentable thing of it all is this, that those who seem to have a monopoly upon this subject are as a rule such individuals as are least governed by Biblical principles. The purpose of the novelist and the stage actor is certainly not first of all to elevate the morals, but rather to swell their own purses and to gratify morbid curiosity. Our text speaks home to our needs. Our day has witnessed a tremendous moral let-down. This rule is timely and urgent.

Marriage was instituted by Almighty God. Our text tacitly implies that marriage should be observed. "Let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband." I Corinthians 7:2. "Marriage is honorable in all." Hebrews 13:4. The only Biblical basis for marriage is love, although many marry to get a thrill, social position or money. Love and fidelity are duties belonging to marriage.

I. What Is Forbidden?

1. Adultery.

(1) Mental adultery.

All speculative filthiness, unclean imaginations, thoughts, purposes and affections, though one does not intend to pursue them to the gross act.

"But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." Matthew 5:28.

(2) Unchastity in words.

All filthy communications and obscene language. "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." Ephesians 4:29.

(3) Uncleanliness in actions.

a. Wanton looks.

b. Immodest gestures.

c. Fornication.

Corporal adultery is committed with mature deliberation. There is the contriving of the sin in the mind, then the consent in the will, and then the sin is committed in act.

II. What Are The Causes Of Adultery?

1. A low ideal of womanhood.

2. A low ideal of manhood.

3. A low level of life.

III. What It Does?

1. It destroys true manliness.

2. It fetters the affections.

3. It blinds the mind.

4. It defiles the conscience.

5. It destroys true chivalry.

6. It blots the name.
"His reproach shall not be wiped away." Proverbs 6:33.
7. It ruins the reputation.
It leaves an indelible stain on it.
8. It degrades the honor.
9. It destroys self-respect.
10. It is a thievish sin--worst sort of theft.
11. It is wasteful to the purse.
"By means of a whorish woman, a man is brought to a piece of bread." Proverbs 6:26.
12. It emaciates the physical powers.
13. It saps the vitality.
14. It destroys the ability to think altruistically.
15. It brings the spiritual into subjection to the carnal.
16. It is humanly hurtful.
 - (1) It is a sin against the individual.
 - (2) It is a sin against the family.
 - (3) It is a sin against society.
 - (4) It is a sin against the nation.
 - (5) It is a sin against the race.
Solidarity of humanity is more than a dream of visionaries. It is an indisputable fact.
 - (6) It is a sin against the universe.
 - (7) It is a sin against God.
Impure acts strike a blow at His heart.
17. It does violence to all the virtues.
18. It involves others in guilt.
19. It incurs the displeasure of God.
20. It will be visited by punishment. Hebrews 13:4; 10:31.
21. It excludes from heaven, unless the sin be repented of and, by the help of God, forsaken. Ephesians 5:5.

IV. How To Avoid Adultery.

1. Keep a careful watch over your senses.
2. Mortify any evil propensity.
3. Strengthen the spirituality of your mind.
4. Control yourself.

5. Cherish a high regard for the will of God.
6. Engage in frequent and earnest prayer.
7. Seek the society and friendship of the upright.
8. Enter lawful wedlock.
9. Honor the estate of matrimony.