

# Answers to Sermon Notes

## The Ten Words: The Seventh Word

Deuteronomy 5:18

7/31/22

1. This morning, we continue our study of the second table of **content** of the Ten Commandments with the third of its 6 commandments.
  - a. Once again, let's remember that as the first table governs our relationship to the **God** of **Life**, the second table governs our relationship to the **gift** of **life**.
    - i. This gift we receive both as **individuals** and as a **community**.
    - ii. We have a responsibility to **apply** it **both** as individuals and as communities.
    - iii. This is not simply about **private** morality, it is also about **public** morality.
  - b. The first table of the law, then, has a unique relationship to the special (**saving**) grace of God that leads to restored relationship with him in **Christ**, the second table of the law has a unique relationship to the **common** grace of God that leads us to the fullest experience of human **flourishing** that can be achieved in this world.
    - i. God intends that we should be leading the way in living it out, **promoting** it, and allowing the beauty, love, wisdom and **power** of it to lead others to his special, **saving** grace.
2. These 6 commandments cover our relationship to **human life** under these headings:
  - a. (5<sup>th</sup>) The **Structures** of Human Life. "Honor your father and mother."
  - b. (6<sup>th</sup>) The **Value** of Human Life. "You shall not murder."
  - c. (7<sup>th</sup>) The **Furtherance** of Human Life. "You shall not commit adultery."
  - d. (8<sup>th</sup>) The **Sustaining** of Human Life. "You shall not steal."
  - e. (9<sup>th</sup>) The **Language** of Human Life. "You shall not bear false witness."
  - f. (10<sup>th</sup>) The **Enjoyment** of Human Life. "You shall not covet."
3. The **Furtherance** of Human Life.
  - a. As with many other works of God, the best place to start in **understanding** them is with his **objective**.
    - i. Objective: something that one's efforts or **actions** are intended to attain or **accomplish**.
    - ii. We have spoken of this before re: his works throughout the unfolding plan of **redemption**.
      - a. And identified that objective to be the ultimate creation of **willing worshipers**.
      - b. The **knowledge** of this objective helps us understand:
        1. why we were created with **free** will,
        2. why it was necessary for God to **elect** us to salvation,
        3. what his **saving work** in us actually does or doesn't do, and
        4. what our **final state** will be.
    - iii. The **same thing** is true here.
      - a. The **key** to understanding this commandment and its contents is identifying God's objective in creating human life **the way he did**. (Genesis 1:26-28)
        1. In his **image**.
        2. **Male** and **Female**
        3. **Procreational**
          - i. **Sexual** beings
          - ii. With both **ability** and **desire**.
      - b. We can summarize this objective with the word: **furtherance**.
    - b. The **furtherance** of human life includes its:

- i. **Spread** (into all the earth)
  - ii. **Development** (into what it means to subdue it)
  - iii. **Continuation** (into the future)
  - iv. **Redemption** (into the coming kingdom)
    - a. But even after the **fall** there continues to be both a **common** grace and a special **grace** aspect to God's purposes with mankind.
    - b. While one may **serve** the other, they are both active.
- c. This furtherance has **physical**, intellectual, emotional, developmental, **moral** and relational aspects.
- i. Because of this, God made **marriage** to be the **foundation** from which this furtherance would take place.
    - a. From **before** the fall. (Genesis 2:21-25)
    - b. And **after**. (Malachi 2:10-16)
    - c. God's **purpose** for marriage was that it might be the source of human life's **furtherance** – of its flourishing.
      - 1. This is why he warns us not to **separate** what he has joined together there. (Matthew 19:1-6)
        - i. One **male** + one **female** = marriage.
    - d. Upon reflection, though, it is clear that in marriage, God has **joined** together **more** than just a male and a female. (Matthew 19:7-12)
      - 1. In joining a male and a female in marriage, God also **joined sex** to marriage.
      - 2. To live outside of **marriage** is to live without **sex**.
        - i. This is the **consistent** testimony of scripture. (I Corinthians 7:1-2)
          - 1. And recently re-affirmed by **Synod**.

“That synod affirm that ‘unchastity’ in the Heidelberg Catechism Q. and A. 108 encompasses adultery, premarital sex, extra-marital sex, polyamory, pornography and homosexual sex, all of which violate the Seventh Commandment...”

- ii. The definition of sexual immorality is sex **outside** of **marriage**.
- 3. Here too, we must make sure that what **God** has joined together we do not **separate**.
- 4. This is **why** God has given us the 7<sup>th</sup> commandment.
  - i. Though **all** sexual sins are subsumed under this commandment, adultery is the **chief** and most important example, because adultery is the first **domino** to fall in our **acceptance** of sex in any other relationship.
    - 1. “If it need not be kept in **these** boundaries, why must be kept in **any** boundaries?”
    - 2. And this acceptance begins in the **mind** before it does so in the **body**. (Mt. 5:27-28)
  - ii. And we must make sure that this aspect of the marital relationship is **healthy** and **active**.
    - 1. Facilitating **oneness** and providing a place for our God-given desire to **express** itself in holiness. (I Corinthians 7:3-5)
- ii. As the **foundation** for the furtherance of human life and its flourishing, God made marriage to be a place of both **fruitfulness** and **faithfulness**.
- iii. Let us then **defend** marriage as what God made it to be, and live our lives, either as marrieds or singles, **accordingly**.