

The School of Biblical Law

Covenant and Law

Lesson Thirty-One: “The Covenant Model and Commandment Seven, Part 2”

Commandment seven hangs under the general category of laws that define how one is to love one’s neighbor. Each person has the God-given right to his or her headship as is defined by commandment six and the God-given right to elect his or her opposite sex partner with whom to yoke as defined by commandment seven. The yoke of marriage is protected from assault through sexual infidelity.

Commandments 1-5 (Love God)	Covenant Model	Commandments 6-10 (Love thy neighbor)
No other gods	Transcendence	Do not Kill
No graven images	Hierarchy	Do Not Commit Adultery
Do not take God’s Name in vain	Ethics	
Remember the Sabbath Day	Sanctions	
Honor thy Father and Mother	Continuity	

1. Commandment seven addresses all manner of sexual impurity.

Sexual purity is required both before and after marriage and also applies to persons who choose not to marry.

Sexual impurity is identified by any of the following:

- Deut. 22:21: Unchastely before marriage
- Deut.22:22-27; Lev. 20:10: Adultery after marriage
- Deut.22:25-26: Prostitution, Rape
- Lev.20:13; 18:22: Homosexuality or Sodomy
- Ex. 22:19; Lev. 18:23; 20:15: Bestiality

2. Penalties were ascribed to the offending party/parties that ranged from financial recompense to the death sentence.

If a young man trespassed against a young woman through the deed of fornication, the girl’s father could require the payment of the dowry.

- Dowry was traditionally equivalent to one year or more wages, and the dowry secured the future for the woman and her children should something happen to the husband.
- To steal a woman’s virginity was equivalent to stealing her future.

Adultery could be punishable by death.

- The one offended party had the choice to prosecute or to release.
- Jesus did not condemn the woman taken in adultery in Jn.8:1-11 because the husband did not bring the accusation and because no witnesses remained to testify, and not death penalty could be enforced without two or three witnesses (Deut. 17:6; 19:15; Heb. 10:28).

3. Adultery imposes the death sentence with or without the death of the offending spouse.

Adultery severs covenant flow, cuts off the heart of the trespasser from the heart of the trespassed, and disrupts the yoke of labor which affects assets and inheritance

Adultery breaks the covenant vow and the sanction of divorce may be activated. (Mt.5:32)

- Matthew 5:32, “...whosoever shall put away his wife, except for the cause of fornication, causes her to commit adultery and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced commits adultery.”
- Divorce is the Greek word *Apolyo* – Strong’s #630, from *apo* #575 and *luo* #3089 and means to put away, set at liberty, let depart, or release
- Fornication is the Greek word *porneia* – Strong’s #4202 and means harlotry, unlawful lust, or practice of idolatry.

Sexual impurity is equated within the scriptures to worship of another god, and divorce is an earthly picture of a broken covenant between Christ and His church. As faithfulness is the pattern in heaven, God requires faithfulness in the earthly reflection of the heavenly reality.