



7th Commandment: Do Not Commit Adultery

Video Transcript

Chapter 1: The Meaning of Adultery

0:00-0:23

Jon: We are at word seven of the 10 Commandments.

Tim: Mhm. Which is, “Don’t commit adultery.” Two words in Hebrew, *lo’ tin’aph*, from the Hebrew root *na’aph*. What it means is to have sex with someone that is in a marriage covenant with another person. And then it raises a question of, well then, why does that matter?

Jon: Yeah.

Chapter 2: Marriage in the Beginning

0:23-2:29

Tim: So Genesis 1, verse 27, “God created *’adam* (human) in his image. In the image of God, he (that is God) created him (that is humanity); male and female he created them.” The phrase “image of God” has gotten swapped out for “male and female.” So one of the ways humans image God is that we are different, but yet also one. The second story that really focuses on this is then in the Eden narrative, where you have a singular human, an *’adam*. But then, when God puts the human in the garden to work it and to keep it, God says, “... It is not good for the *’adam* to be alone.” So what God says is, “I will make an *’ezer kenegdo*.” So the word *’ezer* means “the one who brings about deliverance from the bad situation,” so “rescuer.”

Jon: Mhm.

Tim: And the phrase *kenegdo* means “corresponding to.” So a delivering ally that matches, but not matches by being identical, matches by being precisely different. So God becomes an anesthesiologist.

[Both laugh]

Tim: —knocks the human out—

Jon: Puts Adam to sleep.

Tim: —with a deep sleep, and takes one of his sides.

Jon: The one becomes two.

Tim: And when the human wakes up, and he sees, and he’s like, “Oh my goodness, this is bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh. This one shall be called *’ishah*, woman, because she was taken from *’ish*, man.” And then the narrator steps in, in Genesis 2:24, and says, “Okay, dear reader, this is the reason why a man leaves his father and mother and then joins”—literally clings, grabs onto—“his wife, and they become one flesh.”

Jon: Mhm. The two will become one flesh.

Tim: Mhm. “One flesh” is a way of talking about a family bond.

Jon: Okay.

Tim: There’s something really special, important, that God’s behind.

Chapter 3: Marriage as a Symbol of God’s Covenant 2:29-3:50

Tim: It is also interesting that marriage is one of the main metaphors to talk about God’s covenant with Israel.

Jon: Right.

Tim: This has to be why the Apostle Paul sees sex and marriage as having cosmic implications.

Jon: Hmm.

Tim: Most famously is in his letter to the Ephesians, where he says, “Husbands are to love their wives because when they love their wives, they love their own bodies.” And he’s for sure meditating on the—

Jon: One flesh.

Tim: —the Eden narrative, that the two are one. And then he starts talking about the Messiah and the church. The Messiah loves the church.

Jon: Yeah.

Tim: You're like, "What?" And he says, "This is a great mystery."

[Jon laughs]

Tim: Now, just to clarify, the mystery I'm talking about?

Jon: Yeah, explain this mystery to me.

Tim: Well, Paul says that when he reads in Genesis about the two, the man and the woman, becoming one, that it's ultimately a picture of Jesus and his people. That is, God and humanity becoming one.

Jon: Okay, so that's what human marriage is meant to symbolize.

Tim: Apparently, yes. Yeah, marriage, is a picture of God's relentless love and loyal pursuit to become one with his human creatures, with his partners. It's remarkable.

Jon: Yeah.

Chapter 4: Protect and Honor Marriages

3:50-4:35

Tim: Okay. Flip over "Don't commit adultery." If you see a married couple in your community, their marriage is the most important context where they're learning to become fully loving human beings towards each other. Protect that. Help them. Honor that. That's where they're working it out.

Jon: And of course, I guess we're not saying in all your other relationships then, love doesn't matter.

Tim: Exactly. Yeah.

Jon: But there's this focusing.

Tim: There's this focusing in a marriage covenant that is unique. It's significant. It's difficult. Don't shatter the marriage of another couple because of your sexual desire. Don't commit adultery.