

According to Exodus 20:14, the Seventh Commandment says: *"Thou shalt not commit adultery."*

What does the Seventh Commandment order?

The Seventh Commandment orders that we preserve our own chastity as well as that of our neighbor at heart, word, and conduct.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-4 – Ephesians 5:11 – 12 – 2 – Timothy 2:22 – 1 Peter 3:2

What does the Seventh Commandment forbid?

The Seventh Commandment forbids any thought, word, or dishonest action within marriage.

Matthew 5:28 – Ephesians 5:3

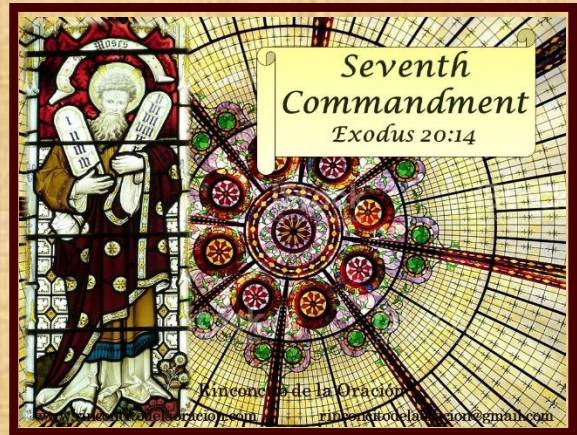
Conclusion: The purpose of this commandment is that we are to remove all uncleanness and impurity from our lives, since we have been created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26), who is "... *Holy, holy, holy...*" (Isaiah 6:3), in "knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness." But that likeness was lost because of the Fall, "... *God made humankind righteous, but many perversions were sought by mankind*" (Ecclesiastes 7:29). Hence the need to be regenerated, which is that act that restores human nature to its original condition.

If we wish to obey this commandment, it is necessary that our inner feelings not interfere with those desires that stand in our way to holiness. Some desires do not favor us; apart from being inconvenient no matter how much pleasure we get out of the mere fact of thinking about them.

If we give way to our inner feelings, these thoughts will gradually grow leading us the wrong way and ending up in sin. That condition will not only affect whoever commits sin but also, in a way, whoever went along for the act to be completed.

By the mere fact of coveting someone else, we have committed adultery, because that is where everything begins, by feeling it in our heart and scheming it in our mind (since the idea will rattle consistently in our mind like a woodpecker) until carrying out and materializing my desire.

And at that very moment, we have simply fallen into infidelity and sin beyond the fact that the act was consummated. We are guilty for having been seduced and given way to temptation. At some point in our existence, we are tempted in this regard, but it will depend on our integrity, and our strength, to avoid being dragged into committing sin.



Having extramarital relations has been seen as something normal for quite some time, *"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"* (Isaiah 5:20-23). And the fact is that not only is this commandment transgressed by maintaining a lustful relationship with another person, but there are also a variety of things being offered everywhere, such as, for example, in internet.

On the web, there are many pages where virtual sex is offered in exchange for some monetary compensation. This is also a case where the commandment is sullied, even though the relationship is not consummated.

As it may be seen, the spectrum is wide where the commandment can be transgressed. In some cases, it will be through the lyrics of songs, advertising, ways of dressing, movies, etc., and in the long run do nothing more than invite and incite to commit adultery.

Some will inadvertently be influenced by comments that do nothing but push you to stumble on your path to holiness. Murmurings and advice such as: "that everything is fine", "if you like it, why are you going to hold back?", "it's only once", "try it, nobody is going to find out", "you are a smart aleck", "if you don't do it, you'll never know what you're missing", and most likely in case of refusal, you will be mocked and disqualified, a humiliating situation and difficult to cope with for some.

Even in its most varied forms, the act in itself is condemned and is manifested in this commandment.

Adultery means the couple violates marital commitments and agreements, and the promises of honesty and fidelity they made to each other. With transgression, there is a violation of trust and fidelity of the couple constituted by marriage.

With marriage, two families are joined. Violating this commandment causes great emotional pain and psychological damage to all parties involved. In addition, there are legal and economic consequences since with divorce comes the separation of property and usually the loss of custody of the children by one of them.

Children are unfortunately most vulnerable; and when they are very young, no matter how much explanation is given to them, they do not understand why dad and mom are no longer living together. They are always caught in the middle, having to endure aggression from both parties and in some cases, they are used as "wild cards" in order to get certain demands from one of the parties.

Children will have a hard time "adjusting to a new life", a life they did not choose. And the reality is that, even as the years go by and they become adults, that "abnormal" situation will continue to bring them pain and conflict.

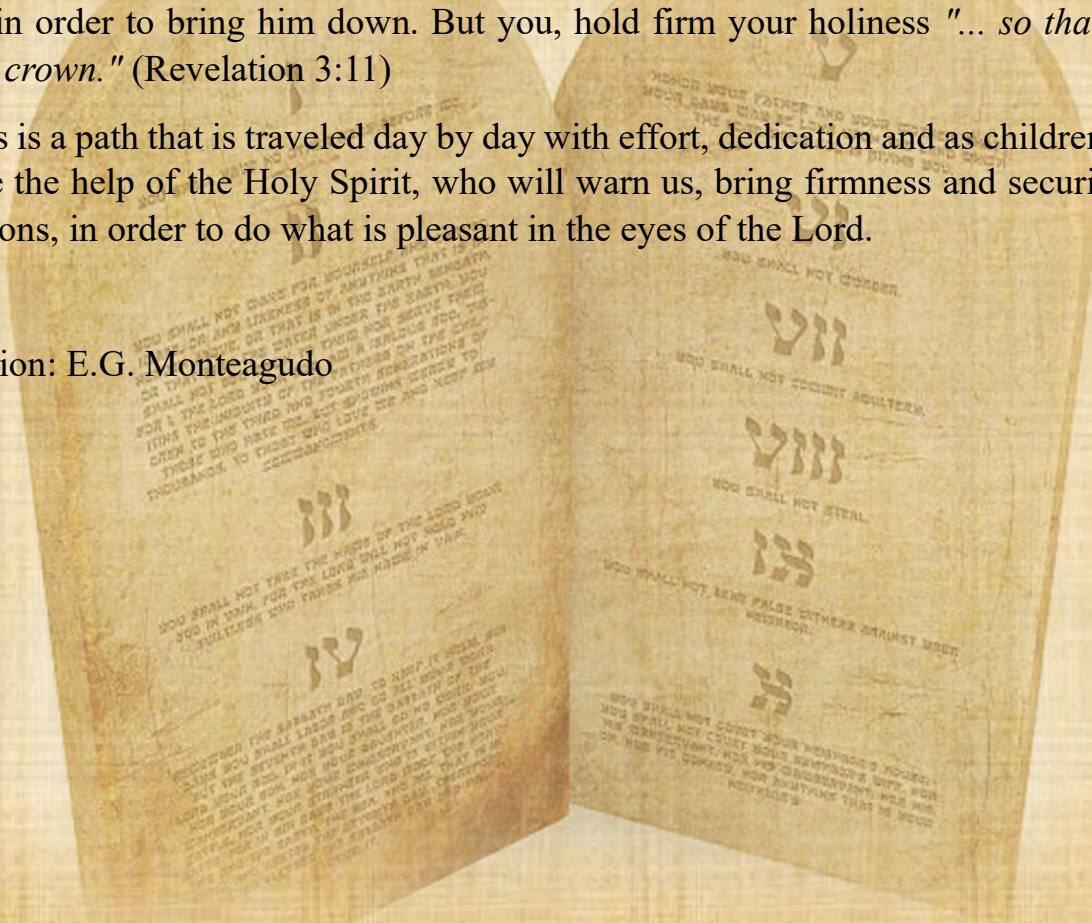
God does not justify extramarital affairs. God does not accept impurity wherever it may be, whether in the body, in the mind, or in the soul, because He very well knows the consequence. It should be remembered that God has given us free will and our individual response to that freedom "is a decisive variable."

No one is saying that walking in "holiness" is neither simple nor easy, but it is certainly worth trying. Our sacrifice will not be in vain. Holiness is a lifestyle that is cultivated day by day, it is a path that requires effort, it is a daily challenge and a discipline that requires perseverance.

Remember, Satan goes around in despair like a roaring lion (1 Peter 5:8), seeing whom to devour in order to bring him down. But you, hold firm your holiness "... so that no man take thy crown." (Revelation 3:11)

Holiness is a path that is traveled day by day with effort, dedication and as children of God, we have the help of the Holy Spirit, who will warn us, bring firmness and security in our convictions, in order to do what is pleasant in the eyes of the Lord.

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