

A close-up photograph of a hand resting on a stone tablet. The tablet is covered in Hebrew text, which is part of the Ten Commandments. The hand is positioned over the text, and the lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the stone and the skin of the hand. The background is dark and out of focus.

# THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

GOD'S DESIGN FOR SEX &  
MARRIAGE



## Series: The 10 Commandments

- Setting...
  - God delivers his people from Egyptian slavery
  - Great miracles and God's power displayed
  - People gather at the foot of Mount Sinai
  - Amidst fire and smoke God speaks...
- The Law, Jesus, and how it applies to us
  - Jesus came to fulfill the Law & its requirements
  - The law summed up – Love God, love others
  - The law acts like an MRI – it shows us what's wrong but does not fix the problem
  - Romans 3:19-24

**Rom 3:19-24...**<sup>19</sup> Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup> Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. <sup>21</sup> But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. <sup>22</sup> This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.



THE BIG 10

GOD'S DESIGN FOR SEX &  
MARRIAGE

## Deut. 5:18 – The 7<sup>th</sup> Commandment

<sup>18</sup> You shall not commit adultery.

## **You shall not commit adultery...**

- God goes from murder (the minimum way to love another) to adultery – the minimum way to love your spouse.

## **3 Questions we need to answer today...**

1. Why is this a command?
2. What does this command reveal about our hearts?
3. How can we align ourselves with God's desires for us?



## 1. Why is this in the Big 10?

### a. Human Flourishing

- God desires us to have healthy loving marriages
  - Fulfills a God-given need in us – to love and be loved is at our core
  - Faithfulness to your spouse, trust, love and respect are character traits produced in a healthy marriage that also affect other areas of life
  - Healthy loving marriages are the platform for healthy families, healthy communities and healthy societies and nations
  - Adultery causes the break down of the family unit and has devastating consequences for everyone affected

## 1. Why is this in the Big 10?

a. Human Flourishing

b. Human Marriage is a Reflection of Our Relationship with God

- Throughout the Bible God uses the image of his people as his bride and shows his desire for them to be faithful to him as he is faithful to them
- Ephesians 5:22-27



## Ephesians 5:22-27

<sup>22</sup> Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup> and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.



## 2. What does this command reveal?

- We have cheatin' hearts
  - a. Adultery is not just physical
    - Jesus explains the commandment (Matt 5:27-30)

Matt 5:27-30... <sup>27</sup> You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' <sup>28</sup> But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup> If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. <sup>30</sup> And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.



## 2. What does this command reveal?

➤ We have cheatin' hearts

a. Adultery is not just physical

- Jesus explains the commandment (Matt 5:27-30)
- The heart matters – your thought life matters
- We live in and are products of a sex-saturated culture where sexual promiscuity is expected
  - Sex is one of the main gods of our culture
  - Advertising, music, TV, movies, magazines, books...
- Internet porn may be the most destructive tool of the enemy in our day
- Sex is a gift, not god and not dirty, designed for marriage – one man and one woman

## 2. What does this command reveal?

- We have cheatin' hearts
  - a. Adultery is not just physical
  - b. Prone to Wander
    - History of God's people is unfaithfulness
    - Ultimately, God desires us to be faithful to him
    - The fruit of being faithful to God will be faithfulness to your spouse and others
    - The result of using God's gift of sex & marriage outside of his design is brokenness, shame, guilt, confusion and antagonism towards God
    - The MRI says we have a problem. What are we going to do about it?



### 3. How can we align ourselves with God's desire for us?

a. We're all guilty of breaking this command

## John 8:2-11...

<sup>2</sup> At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. <sup>3</sup> The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group<sup>4</sup> and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. <sup>5</sup> In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” <sup>6</sup> They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger.



## John 8:2-11...

<sup>7</sup> When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.”<sup>8</sup> Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. <sup>9</sup> At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there.<sup>10</sup> Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”

<sup>11</sup> “No one, sir,” she said.

“Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”

### 3. How can we align ourselves with God's desire for us?

- a. We're all guilty of breaking this command
- The church has a problem with stone throwing
  - We need to extend grace to those who have fallen... After all, we all fall short of the glory of God
  - Our reactions to those who fall expose our self-righteousness & misunderstanding of the gospel
  - The church needs to be a safe place to confess sin and deal with the blackness in our hearts



### 3. How can we align ourselves with God's desire for us?

- a. We're all guilty of breaking this command
- b. Repentance is freedom
  - God has provided a way for us
  - Identify environments where you are most likely to fall and then ruthlessly put your sin to death
  - 1 John 1:9... If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness
  - Find someone to confide in. God has given us the church as a gift to help us stay faithful to him and each other

### 3. How can we align ourselves with God's desire for us?

- a. We're all guilty of breaking this command
- b. Repentance is freedom
- c. Live your life in the light



## 1 John 1:5-10...

<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. <sup>7</sup>But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. <sup>8</sup>If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

### 3. How can we align ourselves with God's desire for us?

- a. We're all guilty of breaking this command
- b. Repentance is freedom
- c. Live your life in the light
  - Darkness is where sin dwells but living in the light chases away this darkness
  - Cultural value of privacy vs. Biblical values of openness, honesty and integrity
  - Trust is connected to openness not darkness or privacy
  - Darkness/privacy enslave us to our sinful desires