

“How to Make Godly Decisions, Part 8”
(Lord’s Day School, 7-29-01)

Two weeks ago, we finished looking at the sixth commandment, “You shall not murder,” and how it calls us to protect not only our own lives, but the lives of others, and how it doesn’t just prohibit murder, but from everything that tends to take away life; and how it doesn’t just affect the things we do, but also the things we think and the words we speak. This morning, in order to finish this class in the time we have remaining, we will need to look at two of the commandments, the seventh and eighth. The seventh commandment calls us to sexual purity, while the eighth calls us not to take anything that doesn’t belong to us.

- VII. First, let’s consider the seventh commandment. What is the seventh commandment? “You shall not commit adultery” (Exodus 20:14).
- A. What does this commandment, in a general sense, forbid us to do?
1. Most obviously it forbids adultery itself? What is adultery? Unlawful sexual relations with a person other than your spouse.
 2. Does it forbid anything else? More broadly considered, it forbids all forms of sexual uncleanness: fornication, incest, prostitution, homosexuality, bestiality, etc.
 3. Is there anything else? It also forbids us to do anything that would contribute to sexual uncleanness, not only for ourselves, but others. And it forbids unchaste thoughts and desires in our hearts.
- B. Let’s consider now some of the areas that this would affect us in everyday life.
1. First it tells us that we must be sexually pure in all that we do.
 - a. How does this apply to marriage?
 - (i) If we are married, we must be faithful to our spouses.
 - (ii) We must never divorce our spouses for less than biblical grounds, otherwise we will cause them to commit adultery if they remarry, and we will commit adultery if we remarry.
 - b. How does this apply to those who are not married?
 - (i) If we are not married, it calls us to pure in our conduct: no fornication, or any form of sexual contact.
 - (ii) Of course rape, incest, prostitution and homosexuality are all forbidden.
 - (iii) If we are single, and of marriageable age, and do not have the gift of singleness, we must pray for a spouse. Paul writes, “But if they do not have self-control, let them marry; for it is better to marry than to burn” (1 Cor. 7:9).
 - (iv) In the meantime, we need to fight against sexual lust. Beware of idle time.
 - c. Whether we are married or not, it calls us not to lust after another person.
 - (i) What does it mean to lust? To look at or think about someone with sexual

desire.

(ii) Jesus said, “But I say to you, that everyone who looks on a woman to lust for her has committed adultery with her already in his heart” (Matt. 5:28).

d. How can we avoid lusting?

(i) We must avoid all places and things that would promote lust.

(ii) Where are some of the places where you think you might be tempted to lust?

(a) The beach, or even a swimming pool in mixed company.

(b) Some magazines, pictures, or movies which portray immorality.

(iii) We must also avoid company that provokes lustful thoughts: immoral unbelievers, or even professing Christians that violate these standards.

2. What can we do to help others remain sexually pure?

a. We must not say anything or do anything that will cause another person to stumble: dirty jokes, sexual innuendo, flirting, etc.

b. We must be careful in what we wear, that we don't wear any clothing which will stumble someone or cause them to lust: be careful with your formal and casual clothing, don't wear too short or too tight clothing, bikinis or swimsuits that aren't modest.

VIII. Now let's consider, briefly, the eighth commandment. What is the eighth commandment? “You shall not steal” (Ex. 20:15).

A. What does this commandment forbid us to do?

1. It forbids us to steal. Does it forbid us to steal only things? What about people? It also forbids us to kidnap someone.

2. Should we ever receive something from someone that is stolen? No. If you receive it, then you have become involved in that theft.

3. What are some other things that might be considered stealing?

a. Selling something for too high a price. Taking advantage of high demand situations.

b. Selling a service for too high a price.

c. Using a scale to weigh what you are selling that is balanced in your favor.

d. Making an agreement with someone, but then not carrying out what you said you were going to do. Breaking your promises.

e. Charging too much interest.

f. Taking someone to court unjustly, or suing them for too much.

g. Extortion.

h. Not giving back something you borrowed, in the time you said you would.

i. Finding something and not trying to find the owner, or knowing who the owner is and still keeping it for yourself. When I find money, I don't like to pick it up anymore, because the person who lost it might come looking for it.

j. Withholding good from our neighbor when he needs it and it is in our power to give it to him.

k. Of course coveting and envy is also forbidden by this commandment, but we will look at this more under the tenth commandment.

- l. Idleness, wasting what we have through uncontrolled spending.
 - m. We can even steal from ourselves by not allowing ourselves the comfort that the Lord gives us.
 - n. We can steal from our families by not working and providing for them what we should.
 - o. We can steal from our employers by taking some of the supplies we use at work.
- B. What does this commandment tell us to do?
1. Instead of stealing, we should work and give.
 2. Instead of kidnapping, we should do all we can to protect the lives and liberties of others.
 3. We need to deal honestly in our selling of things and services.
 4. We need to be faithful to our promises. If we promise to help a neighbor with his car, or with his yard, or to fix something on their house, we need to do it.
 5. If we have taken something that doesn't belong to us, we need to give it back. If we no longer have it, we need to make restitution.
 6. We need to lend and to give to those in need.
 7. We must make a budget and live wisely and frugally.
 8. We must provide for ourselves and for our families.
 9. We must make sure that we earn our money in a honest way and in an honest and lawful business.
 10. We must not only protect the wealth of others, we must also try and help them increase it if we can.