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Roadmap Shows Way to Non-adulterous Life

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A specific rule is set up with the Seventh Commandment to honor the institution of marriage: "You shall not commit adultery" (Exodus 20:14).



Adultery is voluntary sexual intercourse between a married person and someone other than the lawful spouse. Adultery comes from the term "adulterate," which means to make impure or contaminate.

Biblical, marital sex is a sacred act within a relationship – between two people of the opposite sex who are committed to one another for life. From the beginning this was God's prototype.

Since men are God's sparkplugs to keep the human race in existence, they may be more easily tempted. It is important for married men to have moral boundaries to protect themselves from being vulnerable.

Recently a friend told me that Billy Graham, throughout his marriage, kept the rule that he would not go out to lunch with a woman other than his wife. Ruth Graham died June 14, 2007, after a long and happy life with Billy. Dr. Graham had his 90th birthday this November.

Stephen Arterburn's book "Every Man's Battle" tries to help win the war on sexual temptation.

"From the television to the Internet, print media to videos, men are constantly faced with the assault of sensual images. It is impossible to avoid such temptations ... but, thankfully, not impossible to rise above them." (Eden Communications, Internet).

When tempted sexually by one's unregenerate animal nature and hormonal rush – good advice is, "Run like mad, and do not look back."

Although a Hebrew slave in Egypt, Joseph, Jacob's youngest son, knew the seventh commandment. One day Joseph was pursued by his master Potiphar's wife to commit adultery. He followed this commandment by running from her as fast as he could go (Genesis 39:10-12).

Women have their sexual needs and temptations, too. There are seductive women, with flattering lips, who steal financially stable husbands from their mates at the prime of their life. The book of Proverbs warns of such women in chapters 6 and 7. "Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; He who does so destroys his own soul" (Proverbs 6:32).

As the marriage years go by, couples must keep strengthening their relationship.

Physical changes through age, disease or surgery can challenge a marriage. Children and their multitude of problems can weigh heavily on a couple.

Sex is a gift and a part of a healthy marital relationship, but love is more than sex. True love is for eternity.

Adultery vs. Fornication: One thing that concerned me about Commandment No. 7 is that it spoke against adultery but didn't mention fornication.

Fornication is voluntary sexual intercourse between two unmarried adults. It is a huge problem in our culture, with growing numbers of young people tossing marriage out the window.

English editions of the Old Testament use the word fornication

only six times. The New Testament gives 35 references (Strong's Concordance). I found also that in most new translations or paraphrases of the Bible, the term "sexual immorality" is used to cover both adultery and fornication. I gained more clarity as I studied.

Fornication in Greek comes from porneia. See the comparison with the words pornography and pornographic. Pornography is considered a form of either adultery or fornication.

The good news is we have a roadmap, the Bible, that shows us how to live an abundant life. It shows that God is merciful, and when asked He will forgive our sins and set us on the right and happiest pathway. The Ten Commandments are part of those guidelines for life. You're on your way!

Hebrew Lesson: Let's learn the seventh Hebrew letter. "Zain" (z) numerically is No 7, and means weapon. It looks like an axe, reminding us that adultery cuts between a man and woman.

To draw this Hebrew letter, make one straight vertical line a quarter of an inch long. Now draw a horizontal line on top of the axe handle, facing left. Make a short vertical line for the cutting edge.

Use this symbol to remind you to honor your marriage.

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