

*desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do...but the fruit of the Spirit is ... self-control... And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.*

#### Discussion Questions

- Why do you think Jeremiah compared the Israelites to horses? Is it a good comparison?
- Are there any physical pleasures or temptations that test your self-control?

#### **Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse**

The temptations surrounding the seventh commandment can be especially strong. Perhaps that's why Paul calls us to flee from sexual sin in *1 Corinthians 6:18, Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.* Paul doesn't just warn us of the danger, though. He also reminds us of the hope we have in Christ. Verse 19 continues: *Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.* Christians have been bought with the blood of Jesus Christ. We have forgiveness, mercy, and grace from God. We flee sin because we know we are vulnerable, and we run to Christ because we know His love. Perhaps that's not you. Perhaps you have forgotten what Jesus did for you and have been toying with sexual sin in the private corners of your life. Or, perhaps you've never trusted Christ with your life and are still wallowing in sin with no hope of escape. Either way, repent! Believe the gospel today, confess Jesus is Lord and be forgiven. 1 John 1:9 gives this assurance: *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

#### Discussion Questions

- What are some examples of “fleeing” sin? What might that look like?
- Why is it important that don't just try to avoid sin, but that we run to Christ instead?

# Baptist Catechism Family Worship Guide



## West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025)

### Baptist Catechism Question #75

Q: Which is the seventh commandment?

A: *The seventh commandment is, Thou shalt not commit adultery.*

#### Suggested Memory Verse

*Exodus 20:14 “You shall not commit adultery. (ESV)”*

### Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The seventh commandment seems short and simple, but as with the other commandments there is a lot packed into this category of sin. Let's first define adultery. The Hebrew word is "na-aph" and it primarily refers to "the act of engaging in sexual relations with someone other than one's spouse." However, adultery encompasses more than just the physical acts of sin in marriage. It involves moral and spiritual unfaithfulness to God as well as to one's spouse. When God created the world, the garden, and Adam and Eve, He commanded them in Genesis 2:24, *Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.* They were to be together for life and not to have or take another person but to be 100% committed to each other. Marriage would be the building block for society. It would demonstrate the image of God and be the means of producing godly offspring. To be intimate with someone else would break the bond of unity, destroy the image and character of God that others see, and introduce offspring outside of the family unit (and unity) that God intended. Adultery is rebellion against God's righteous law and resulted in severe consequences in the Old Testament, including death. Today's society thinks nothing of adultery and, in fact, many don't even bother to get married at all. Sexual sin is rampant, but the Gospel holds out hope, forgiveness, and the ability to obey in Christ.

#### Discussion Questions

- How does the unity between a man and wife display the image of God to the world?
- What marriages do you know of that seem to demonstrate this unity well? Thank God for them and pray for their continued faithfulness.

### Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

This command covers all kinds of sexual sin: incest, sexual abuse, homosexuality, bestiality, pornography, hook-up culture, and even lust in general can fall into this category. Sexual sin is any deviation from the healthy union of man and wife as described by God in His Word. These deviations and perversions all lead to unfaithfulness to your spouse, yourself, and more importantly unfaithfulness to God. Sexual sins are not all equal in the harm that they can cause. Some may cause obvious damage while other sins may go unseen by those around you, but God sees and knows all. *For a man's ways are before the eyes of the LORD, and he ponders all his paths* (Proverbs 5:21). *And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account* (Hebrews 4:13). God will not be mocked, and unbelievers who engage in sexual sin will not escape judgment. There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ (Romans 8:1) because Christ died for sin, but there are still serious consequences. Sexual sin affects our walk with God, our witness, and it affects others, so it is critical that Christians are quick to repent. In a healthy church context, this can be aided by direction, reproach, and encouragement from the elders, and even church discipline. In cases where secular laws have been broken, God's justice may also require calling the necessary authorities. Even then, forgiveness can still be found at the cross.

#### Discussion Questions

- Can a Christian forgive someone but still call the police on them? Why?
- If you are not married, does the commandment against adultery apply to you? How?

### Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Today let's look at what Scripture has to say about adultery in both the Old and New Testaments. Leviticus 18:20–21 says, *And you shall not lie sexually with your neighbor's wife and so make yourself unclean with her.* Being intimate with your neighbor's or anybody else's wife is wrong. Women, the same goes for you. Deuteronomy 22:22 says, *If a man is found lying with the wife of another man, both of them shall die, the man who lay with the woman, and the woman. So you shall purge the evil from Israel.* The punishment for adultery in Israel was death for both of them. Jesus in the New Testament speaks of adultery in this way. *"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart"* (Matthew 5:27-28). Here we gain an understanding that adultery is more than just a physical act but what is in your heart and mind! Lust for anyone or anything that does not belong to you is a sin. That's actually one of the reasons most people should get married...*because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband* (1 Corinthians 7:2). To some God has granted the ability to stay single, and for others marriage provides an appropriate expression for sexual desire. In either case, adultery is forbidden.

#### Discussion Questions

- What can a single person do if they want to be married but aren't yet?
- What can a married person do if they find themselves wishing God had given them a different spouse?

### Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

In Jeremiah, God likens those Israelites committing adultery to horses. *They were well-fed, lusty stallions, each neighing for his neighbor's wife* (Jeremiah 5:8). Like animals, they were consumed and driven by their passions. Have you ever seen a dog that is trained well enough to obey when there are no distractions, but when food or a squirrel or another pretty dog enters the picture, it suddenly becomes deaf to its owner's commands? We are inclined to this as well. We may obey God pretty well when the conditions are just right, but what about when we are tempted by physical pleasures? As Christians, we are not to live our lives driven by our flesh. Instead, we are called to be holy and perfect like our heavenly Father. *You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect* (Matthew 5:48). This may seem impossible, but as we grow in the Spirit, repenting of sin and looking always to Christ, we can grow in our ability to obey the Father. Consider Galatians 5:16-24... *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the*