



## "The Seventh Commandment"

This article is from the "Among Friends" section of the Church of God Big Sandy's website, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Dec. 10, 2022.

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I gave a presentation titled "The Seventh Commandment." Following are some of the scriptures that I read.

### **Grace and expectations**

*Exodus 20:2*—"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."

*Exodus 20:14*—"You shall not commit adultery."

### **Six concepts**

In the Bible-study presentation, I organized my material into six concepts. In this article, I will refer to those six different concepts.

### **Old Testament penalty**

In the Old Testament, many behaviors brought about the death penalty.

- *Leviticus 20:10*—Adultery with neighbor's wife.
- *Leviticus 20:11-16*—Forbidden sexual relationships.
- *Deuteronomy 22:13 -21*—A new wife claiming to be a virgin, when she is not.
- *Deuteronomy 22:22*—Adultery with a married woman.
- *Deuteronomy 22:23-24*—Adultery with an engaged woman in the city—both were killed.

- *Deuteronomy 22:25-27*—Adultery with an engaged woman in the field—only the man was killed.

### **Old Testament polygamy and concubines**

- *Genesis 29:16-30*—Jacob married Leah and Rachel.
- *Judges 8:30-31*—Gideon had many wives.
- *1 Samuel 27:3*—David dwelt in Achish with his two wives, Ahinoam and Abigail.
- *2 Samuel 20:3*—David took 10 women (his concubine) and put them in seclusion, supported them and did not have relations with them.
- *1 Kings 11:3*—Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines.

### **New Testament monogamy**

- *1 Corinthians 7:2*—Each man should have his own wife, and each woman should have her own husband.

### **New Testament instruction about adultery**

*Matthew 5:27-28*—“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

### **God got married and divorced**

- *Ezekiel 16:8*—God married Israel.
- *Jeremiah 3:8*—When Israel committed adultery, God gave her a certificate of divorce.
- *Malachi 2:16*—God hates divorce.

### **Scriptures about divorce**

*Matthew 5:31-32*—“Furthermore it has been said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits

adultery.”

- *Matthew 19:3*—The Pharisees sought to test him with a question about divorce.
- *Matthew 19:4-6*—The Son of God quoted Genesis 2:24.
- *Matthew 19:7*—The Pharisees asked about the certificate of divorce mentioned by Moses.

*Matthew 19:8-9*—“He said to them, ‘Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.’ ”

- *1 Corinthians 7:6-9*—Paul's opinion to the unmarried.
- *1 Corinthians 7:10-11*—Paul's bold proclamation to the married.
- *1 Corinthians 7:12-15*—Paul's opinion to the rest.