

# The Gift of Marriage

## Ամուսնութեան Նուէրը

### Exodus 20: 14

“The book *Sex in America* reports that 20% of all women and as many as 35% of all men have been unfaithful in marriage. *Christianity Today* surveyed its readers and discovered that 23% of their subscribers admitted to having had affairs. *Leadership Journal* found that 10% of the pastors and church leaders they surveyed had committed adultery. Can something so common be so wrong?”<sup>1</sup>

What is going on? How come the gift of sex, the gift of marriage, the covenant of “one man and one woman to be united” went so wrong?  
What happened to us?

We move on to the Seventh Word or Commandment.

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

In Armenian we say, “Շնութիւն վի ընէր”, which literally means: “Don’t act like a dog” since dogs don’t have permanent partners.

Are we going in this direction? What happened to our vows and commitments?

like the Sixth Word (*Lo Ratsakh*), in Hebrew the two words “Don’t murder” are *Lo Tinā’ap* (f) **“You shall not commit adultery.”**

To understand the meaning of this Seventh Word, let us go to the Word of God in to see how God designed and intended the creation of man and woman.

### Read Gen 2

**Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”** <sup>19</sup> Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup> The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. <sup>21</sup> So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. <sup>22</sup> And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup> Then the man said,

**“This at last is bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
she shall be called Woman,  
because she was taken out of Man.”**

**24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife,  
and they shall become one flesh.** (Gen 2:18-24 ESV)

It is an amazing story of creation.

Man is alone. God wants to solve this problem. He does not create another animal that fits the need.

**And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.** (22)

*Man and Woman. She was called *Ishah* because she was taken from the man *Ish*. With my respect to all the pets (including my daughter’s Coco which Sevan and I love so much), nothing can replace the loneliness of the man or the woman.*

Man and woman are created as complementary beings. Մէկը միւսը կը լրացնէ:

**“I will make him a helper.”** That word in Hebrew helper is **‘ezer** (which is not a person of a lower status). It is the same word it is used in the OT describing that **God is our helper.**

**‘ezer is: helper fit for him. helper comparable to him, helper suitable to him, helper corresponding to him, helper meet for him.**

When man and woman come together in this **one-flash-relationship** in the context of marriage, it's not only a union but kind of reunion.

Adam and Eve were literally made for each other. Marriage therefore is a covenant between two people who commit to love each other exclusively.<sup>2</sup>

There is no open marriage; there is no extramarital affair; there is no sex out of the marriage; there is no place for a same sex marriage; there is no place for polygamy either. One man to one woman.

Marriage is a gift given by God, and in this union, there is physical intimacy as part of this union. Thus, sex is a gift from God given to us in creation.

What happened to our understanding of sex?

Let me read the marriage vow we say to each other:

“With deep gratitude/ for God’s faithfulness & mercy/ I, **XXXX**, by God’s grace, take you, **YYYY**, to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward; and I do promise & covenant before God & these witnesses to be your loving and faithful husband; in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, to love, honor, and cherish you, and forsaking all others be faithful only to you/ as long as we both shall live.”

**This is a covenant of love. This is a covenant of honor and respect.** We honor our father and mother, please honor your marriage as well. Why? because we honor God. In keeping my marriage vows sacred, I am honoring God and my commitment to Him and to my spouse.  
God takes marriage very seriously.

### **-What is adultery?**

According to the dictionary:

“sex between a married person and someone who is not that person's wife or husband.”<sup>3</sup>

“The simple answer is that adultery is **marital infidelity**. It is sexual intercourse that breaks the bonds of a marriage covenant. So the primary purpose of this commandment is to protect marriage.”<sup>4</sup>

1. When we commit adultery, we are not just breaking the law, we are breaking what God intended for sex and relationships. God intended two individuals, man and woman, to be united; what God has joined, let no one separate.

So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.” **Matthew 19:6**

-If you realize I don’t use the word sex without relationship and commitment. The sexual act without the commitment of marriage becomes self-gratification and not love, friendship, intimacy or unity.

Funny how the world around us has cheapened sexuality. Nothing is sacred anymore; Anything you want is permissible with anyone anytime and with any gender. (Example of Bachelorette and Bachelor on TV; I am surprised people don’t protest this program where humans are used as a commodity.)

Media makes fun of marriages. We rarely we find happily married couples in movies or on TV. The media sells this concept: “Affairs are fun.” We are

bombarded with false ideologies in our homes. Our kids are exposed with those values. No wonder families are broken...

Adultery effects not only the person and the spouse, but the whole family dynamics including the children and the relatives.

2. Adultery is not just breaking the vow of the marriage, it is also indulging in one's sexual fantasies. (Don't play with fire), **"Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned?"** (Prov 6:27 NIV)

Flirting with the opposite sex; spending too much time with the opposite sex which can lead to affairs; finding emotional support with the opposite sex can lead one to temptation. (I am just giving you examples)

3. Fornication is also adultery. "Fornication is sexual relationship outside the covenant commitment of marriage. It refers most specifically to premarital sex, which is a violation of 7th commandment." <sup>5</sup>

-Please notice what I am emphasizing here. Drawing the line in your dating is healthy and holy. Waiting is good, and meaningful.

Sexual desires can tempt us, fine, what do we do after that? The intention of sex is unity. God gave us the gift of sex within the commitment of marriage; it is a serious expression of unity. Dating does not mean commitment of marriage. It is a good start. Thus, drawing boundaries is helpful and important. Ask these questions:

"How can I protect my sexual purity?"

Remember we honor God, and also we are called to honor each other.

### **-How Did Jesus handle this issue?**

Jesus goes to the heart. We did discuss this before.

Jesus Looks beyond the law. Pharisees kept the law, but not the spirit of the law, the intention of the law. We can fall in the same trap. Jesus dealt with inward sin which is the main problem of anger, rage, killing, murdering....and now adultery.

-Adultery comes after murder. "it is an outward sinful act that begins with the devaluing of another."<sup>6</sup> Like murder, adultery is result of inward sin **namely lust**.

Listen how Jesus describes:

**"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.** (Matthew 5:27, 28 ESV)

Lust is the root of the problem that Jesus brings forth. Thus, this commandment is not just for married people; it is for everyone...

John summarizes the basic sins:

**For all that is in the world—the desires (lust) of the flesh and the desires (lust) of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.”** (1 John 2:16 ESV)

Lust of the eyes....

Lust reduces someone to an object of gratification. If “Murder” sees the neighbor as *disposable* then “Adultery” sees the neighbor as *consumable*.

“It is the lingering look, the evaluating gaze. It is meditative *seeing* that leads to objectified *desiring* that ends in self-justified *consuming* of that which is off limits. And it is as old as the garden.”<sup>7</sup>

People are created in the image of God. That person should not be an object of selfish desires.

### **Application:**

**1. Married couples:** Don't put your marriage on automatic pilot. All marriages need maintenance. Couples, talk to each other, face issues, seek help. We pastors are here to assist. You can read books together, talk together and face your issues.

Men, if you have issues be accountable to someone who will assist you. Or join a Christian group that can help you face some of these issues. Don't let it go under the rug. It can ruin your marriage.

**2. Singles:** If you are called to be single, may God give you the strength to hold on your vows of celibacy. If you are seeking a partner for marriage, we will pray with you to find the Godly person. Don't get married for the sake of marriage. Seek His will above everything.

**3. Youth:** There is nothing wrong in waiting. If you are dating, make sure you have boundaries. Temptation will knock the door. Make sure you don't indulge in them. Don't play with fire; it can burn you. Listen again, waiting is good. Discipline is delayed gratification.

**4. For the widows and widowers.** It is not easy to lose a spouse. Only they can understand the pain of losing (the 'ezer.) Look back and thank God for the gift of your spouse. Now that you are single, may God use you to help and bless other couples. (Mrs. Alice, a widow, on her 50th wedding anniversary ordered flower delivery to another couple who got married on the same day.)  
I have a friend who lost his wife and told me about his prayer:  
**"Lord you know what I want and what I need. Protect me from what I want if it's not what I need; guide me to what I need even if it's not what I want."**

**5. Whatever your past may be, Jesus can wash it.** That is the good news. Jesus can wash our sins. Jesus did on the cross and through His Grace we can come to Him and ask forgiveness and restoration.

**But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.** (1 Cor 6:11)

**The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;  
his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.**

**"The LORD is my portion," says my soul,  
"therefore I will hope in him."**

**The LORD is good to those who wait for him,  
to the soul who seeks him.**

**It is good that one should wait quietly  
for the salvation of the LORD.** (Lamentation 3:22-26 ESV)

Take all your shame and guilt to Jesus. He will wash you.

1. Rob Suggs, *The Ten Commandments*, p 37
2. Kevin DeYoung, *The 10 Commandments*, p 111
3. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/adultery>
4. Philip Graham Ryken, *Written in the Stone*, p 153
5. *ibid* p 154
6. Jen Wilkin, *Ten Words to Live By*, p 101
7. *ibid* p 102

