

The Seventh Commandment: You Shall Not Commit Adultery
Exodus 20:14; Deuteronomy 5:18

The Covenant of Works:
How Adam failed

How humanity failed

The Covenant of Grace:
How Christ prevailed

How believers prevail

Q. 139. What are the sins forbidden in the seventh commandment?

A. The sins forbidden in the seventh commandment, besides the neglect of the duties required, are, adultery, fornication, rape, incest, sodomy, and all unnatural lusts; all unclean imaginations, thoughts, purposes, and affections; all corrupt or filthy communications, or listening thereunto; wanton looks; impudent or light behavior; immodest apparel; prohibiting of lawful, and dispensing with unlawful marriages; allowing, tolerating, keeping of stews, and resorting to them; entangling vows of single life; undue delay of marriage; having more wives or husbands than one at the same time; unjust divorce or desertion; idleness, gluttony, drunkenness, unchaste company; lascivious songs, books, pictures, dancing, stage plays; all other provocations to, or acts of uncleanness, either in ourselves or others.

The Westminster Larger Catechism (written in 1646 & 1647)

The seventh commandment is the social parallel to the first commandment. Just as the first commandment requires absolute faithfulness in the relationship with the one God, so the seventh requires a similar relationship of faithfulness within the covenant of marriage.

Walter A. Elwell and Barry J. Beitzel, "Ten Commandments," *Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988), 2044.

It is evident, that any mode of cohabitation different from marriage is cursed in his sight, and that the conjugal relation was ordained as a necessary means of preventing us from giving way to unbridled lust. Let us beware, therefore, of yielding to indulgence, seeing we are assured that the curse of God lies on every man and woman cohabiting without marriage.

John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion* (Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software, 1997).

That we may not be guilty of the inward uncleanness of the heart, in this commandment are forbidden all filthy imaginations, unchaste thoughts, and inward desires and motions of the heart to uncleanness, with all causes and occasions of stirring up and nourishing of these in the heart.

-Edward Fisher, "The Marrow of Modern Divinity", page 305-306