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### **A Word From Your Pastor**

*"Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.' So we say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?'"*  
Hebrews 13:4-6 NIV

I came across an article recently by Bayless Conley, called "The Ten Commandments of Marriage". Much of what I share with you this month and next, has been taken from this article.

#### **The 1st Commandment of Marriage:**

##### **"Exclusivity!"**

1st Commandment found in Exodus 20:3 - *"You shall have no other gods before Me."* What is God saying in this commandment? That He wants to have an exclusive relationship with you. He wants to be your one and only!

Marriage should be exactly the same way! Hebr. 13:4 says, *"Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, . . ."* We are to have an exclusive relationship with our spouse. Henry Ford was asked on his 50th Wedding Anniversary, "What's the secret of your success in marriage?" He replied, "The secret of my successful marriage is the same secret that I have in business: I stick to the same model!"

In marriage we are committed to an exclusive relationship, and there's no need for "window-shopping."

#### **The 2nd Commandment of Marriage:**

##### **"Don't Love a Substitute!"**

2nd Commandment found in Exodus 20:4 - *"You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God."* In this command, God is saying, "Do not love or worship a substitute for Me!"

In marriage, we should have no substitutes either. Love your husband only! Love your wife only! Do not look for your fulfillment in some other relationship or in some other thing.

*(continued on next page)*

#### **The 3rd Commandment of Marriage:**

##### **"Speak Well of Your Mate!"**

3rd Commandment found in Exodus 20:7 - *"You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses His Name."* God's Word is very clear - do not use His Name as a curse word, and do not speak disrespectfully of His Name!

In marriage, few things can affect the relationship like words. Words are containers! They can contain love; they can contain hate; they can contain joy; and they can contain bitterness. Some people are just far too casual in the way they speak of their spouse, and it erodes your respect for him or her. We must think about what we say. Am I building up my spouse?

Learn to speak well of your spouse. Build them up with your words and be lavish with your praise. You will be pleased with where those words will take your relationship.

#### **The 4th Commandment of Marriage:**

##### **"Spend Exclusive Time Together"**

4th Commandment found in Exodus 20:8 - *"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, . . ."* Sabbath means an intermission. It means to put down your work and rest; take a break. God is saying, "If you want a long-term relationship with Me, then we must have time together."

In the same way, in order to have a healthy, growing marriage, husbands and wives need time together - special & exclusive time together. Surely we all know that if we do not schedule it, then it doesn't happen!

#### **The 5th Commandment of Marriage:**

##### **"Honor Your Spouse by Showing How Grateful You Are"**

5th Commandment found in Exodus 20:12 - *"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you."* Among other things, God is saying we must be grateful. Generally, parents spend a lot of time, labor, and money to give their kids an edge in life. It is a tragedy when a child is ungrateful or unthankful.

"Thank You" are incredibly important words in your marriage! Look for those things for which you can compliment your spouse! *(To be continued in next month's Spire!)* Pastor Mike