

SERMON NOTES

David A. Renwick

October 13, 2013

7th Commandment:

Faithful Marriage; You Shall Not Commit Adultery

Presbyterian Tradition

– Westminster larger Catechism, Q 139 (see www.creeds.net)

Covers the whole area of sexuality at that time . . . now:

1. History Changes: Age of Marriage – 1800's young!
Birth Control, Inter-Racial Marriage (*Miscegeny Laws*)
2. Adultery: 14-24% minimum; possibly much higher
3. Divorce: 1st = 40%; 2nd = 60%; 3rd = 73%
4. Cohabitation: 1960 = 450,000; 2011 = 7.5 million
5. Domestic Violence: 25% of women in their lifetime (CDC, 2000)
6. Rape: 89,000/year, decreasing
7. Human Trafficking: FBI est. 300k U.S. youths at risk;
8. Pornography: Check www.internetsafety101.org. ; 30% of all internet use; \$12b in US/Yr
9. Heterosexuality and Homosexuality
Discrimination Issues and Marriage Laws – legal in 13 States + DC

Approaches:

1. Condemn those with whom we disagree?
And/Or ask, "Who are we to cast the first stone?"
2. Is there a norm?
"In the beginning" (Genesis 2:24)
Complementary (One man, one woman)
Covenanted Love (for ever)
3. What about those who do not fit the norm? In the Bible . . .
 - God loved and used as his friends and servants polygamists like King David (1 Chronicles 3:1-9); King Solomon (1 Kings 11)
 - God advocated "Levirate Marriage" (see Deuteronomy. 25:5-6)
 - (Gentle?) Jesus strongly condemned divorce (Mark 10)
 - (Tough?) Apostle Paul made exceptions! (1 Cor.7)

Images of Marriage in the Bible:

Marriage: an image of God's relationship (husband) with his people (wife)

Hosea 2:18-20; Isaiah 54:5, Jeremiah 31:32; 3:20

Marriage as a Calling (not a 'right')

Matthew 19:10-12, 1 Corinthians 7:17

Divorce

Not Permissible? Mark 10:1-12; Malachi 2:16

Permissible? Deut 24:1-4; Matt.19:9; 1 Corinthians 7:10-16

Marriage Standards for Leaders

1 Timothy 3:2, 3:12

Sex In Marriage

- Procreation – Genesis 1:28
- Intimacy/Love – Genesis 2:24, 1 Corinthians 7:3-5
- A God-given physical expression of the permanent spiritual unity that God intends in marriage for a man and a woman – 1 Cor. 6:15-16

Sex Outside Marriage

Forty Times: heterosexual "porneia" (and related words)

= trans. as 'fornication', or 'sexual immorality' cf. Matt 15:19, Rom 1:29, Gal. 5:19, Eph. 5:3, 1 Thess 4:3; Acts 15:29)

Far Less frequently: Homosexual practice

e.g., Leviticus 18:22, 20:13; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

In Society

C.S. Lewis' Question: Is there a parallel between Obesity and Sexual

Obsession? (C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, Ch. 5 Sexual Morality)

= A good, God-given hunger out of control? . . . fired by our age of constant "visual images" (the idolatry of our age?)

Books:

Real Sex by Lauren Winner

Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis

(Communication in marriage) *Five Love Languages* by Gary Chapman

FOLLOW UP on the "Ten Commandments"

*Have questions about this sermon or
any of the messages on the Ten Commandments?*

Join Dr. Renwick for An Evening of Conversation,

Thursday, November 21

Stone Hall, 7:00-8:45