

Christ Lutheran Church

127 N. Spring St., Klamath Falls, OR 97601
(541) 884-1635 www.lutherankf.org

July 2017

The Sixth Commandment

You shall not commit adultery.

Catechism Explanation

We should fear and love God, so that we lead a chaste and decent life in word and deed, and that husband and wife each love and honor the other.

These days, there is much confusion about sex and marriage. Many in our society feel a marriage between a man and a woman is not the only legitimate way to express sexuality. Many practice fornication, living together outside of marriage or jumping from one partner to another. Many live in a so-called "same-sex marriage." Many marriages fall victim to adultery by cheating spouses. And many marriages end in divorce.

When God gave the command: "*You shall not commit adultery,*" He was protecting the sanctity of marriage – marriage as He instituted it from the beginning, marriage as it is truly good for us and society.

In the beginning, God saw that it was not good for man to be alone. So He created a woman from the man's side. God brought Adam and Eve together as man and wife, as "*one flesh*" (Genesis 2:20-24). There was no confusion about gender identity: "*male and female He created them*" (Genesis 1:27). Thus God designed and blessed man and wife with the gift of sex within this holy estate. To this, He added the blessing of children: "*be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth*" (Genesis 1:28).

So God instituted marriage and blessed it as the most intimate and loving relationship on earth. So precious is this holy estate, that Ephesians 5:22-33 compares the godly marriage of a husband and wife to the marriage of Christ and His Bride, the Church.

This God-ordained, lifelong union of one man and one woman in marriage is the most loving and stable foundation for family – as well as for an orderly society, as mankind continues to fill the earth.

Sadly, sin messes everything up that God created good. To adulterate means to make something impure by mixing it with something improper. Mix in sex with anyone but one's God-given spouse, and marriage is adulterated. Mix in selfish desires and unfaithfulness,

and marriage is torn apart. Need we comment on the heartache divorce causes many, including children? This was never God's desire. Citing the account of creation, Jesus says: "*So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.*" (Matthew 19:4-6).

Satan tempts fallen sinners with what seems satisfying and legitimate ("If it feels good, it must be right"), but is very evil and destructive. God condemns all forms of sexual immorality – including adultery, fornication, homosexuality (1 Corinthians 6:9-10). Under this commandment, Jesus even includes looking in wrong places and lusting in the heart (Matthew 5:28).

Again, we can be thankful that getting to heaven does not depend on how well we have kept this commandment. As sinners, we all have failed to have perfectly pure thoughts and desires. In many ways, we have been selfish and self-serving, lacking pure love.

But it is for sinners that Christ came as the Savior. In every way we have been impure, the holy Son of God was pure for us. In every way we have been selfish and unfaithful, He was faithful for us. He presented His holy heart and life before His Father, to count for our holiness. He took all our sin and impurity on Himself on the cross and suffered the condemnation and shame for us. "*Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish*" (Ephesians 5:25-27).

As members of Christ's Bride, the Church, His love is our motivation in earthly marriage. His self-giving love moves a Christian husband to lay down his life for his wife, serving her needs. As the Church responds to Christ's love by honoring Him, so a wife is moved to love and honor her husband (Ephesians 5:22-25).

What a blessed marriage it is with Christ at the center, as husband and wife each love and honor the other, sharing His uplifting forgiveness and love, day by day, year by year. It pictures the most blessed marriage made in heaven of Christ and His Church!

Pastor Glenn Smith

TRUE FREEDOM IN CHRIST!

(A newsletter of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod Board for Home Missions)

“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.” (Galatians 5:1)

FREEDOM! -- Is it just a word, or way of life? As Americans, we greatly value our freedoms, although so often, many do not fully appreciate or understand them. Today, many express concerns that we are losing our freedoms, as government regulates more and more of our lives.

It is important for all our citizens -- but especially for Christians, who have been sanctified in the truth -- to be active and educated, not only about the freedoms our country enjoys, but also in doing our part in maintaining those precious freedoms. That's simply being a good steward of our American citizenship, which we have been blessed to possess!

But as wonderful as America's freedoms are, more valuable still is the spiritual freedom we have in Christ Jesus! His freedom brings forgiveness, new life, and life forever!

The chains of sin, that shackled us at the moment of our conception and condemned us to an eternity in hell, were destroyed by Jesus, who replaced our sinful lives with His own sinless life, on Calvary's Cross. His shed blood paid the price for the whole world's sins and brought forgiveness and salvation to all who believe in Him!

In Christ, we have been freed **FROM** the guilt and condemnation of sin! **In Christ**, we have been freed **FOR** serving Christ and

one another! And **in Christ**, we have the **CERTAINTY** that our eternal salvation has been secured!

But just like our nation's freedoms need to be guarded and maintained, we also have to be careful and diligent about our spiritual freedom.



The apostle Paul calls for a proper understanding of the spiritual freedom we have, in Christ, so that we don't lose it, or take it for granted, but always maintain it, through God's Word and sacrament!

By way of our Lord's life, death, and resurrection, Jesus has lifted off the burden of our sin so that we can be free of its guilt and punishment. He has removed the overbearing pressure of the law from cutting off our right standing with God. He has pulled us away from our sinful and selfish ways, and put us on the liberating course of serving Him, that involves honoring His will, growing in our faith, and dealing with others, in Christian love.

We have been freed from sin and freed to serve! So, you see, **FREEDOM -- IN CHRIST**-- is more than just a word...it **IS** our way of life!

May His freedom always ring loud and clear, as it reigns in our hearts and lives... and daily proclaims the saving Name of Jesus, for all the world to see and hear!

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 <i>Pentecost 4</i> Worship with Communion 9:30 AM Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i>	5	6	7	1
						8
9 <i>Pentecost 5</i> Worship 9:30 AM Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM Happy Anniversary Steve & Mandy Hunter	10 <i>Happy Birthday Micah Smith</i>	11	12	13	14 <i>Happy Birthday Isaac Smith</i>	15 Farewell Luncheon for Rev. Steve and Jan Sparley Grants Pass 11 AM – 3 PM
16 <i>Pentecost 6</i> Worship with Communion 9:30 AM Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM	17	18 <i>Happy Birthday Kara Bednar</i>	19	20 <i>Happy Birthday Michael Ore</i> <i>Happy Birthday Pastor Smith</i>	21	22
23 <i>Pentecost 7</i> Worship 9:30 AM Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM	24	25	26 <i>Happy Birthday Randy Bednar</i> <i>Happy Birthday Richard Howard</i>	27	28	29
30 <i>Pentecost 8</i> Worship 9:30 AM	31	<p><i>“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.” (Galatians 5:1)</i></p>				

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