**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | The Key to a Magnificent Marriage |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Exodus 20:14 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #1860 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
	1. Generations come and go, but the Ten Commandments stand.
		1. They do not need to be amended or revised.
		2. We are broken on the Ten Commandments if we try to break them.
	2. 1 John 5:3
	3. The Ten Commandments are God’s laws for liberty.
		1. We need to place these laws in our hearts.
			1. If God’s laws are only on the outside, they will be rules, regulations and restraints.
			2. If God’s laws are in our hearts, what liberty and release there is.
	4. The seventh commandment states that all sexual involvement outside of marriage (before, after or during) is a grievous sin against Almighty God.
		1. Exodus 20:14
	5. We need to live according to God’s Word in order to protect our homes.
		1. Acts 15:29
		2. 1 Corinthians 10:8
		3. Colossians 3:5
		4. 1 Thessalonians 4:3
		5. If you are sexually active before marriage, you are sinning against the person you will marry.
		6. You are building obstacles and barriers that you will have to overcome once you get married.
	6. Many Christian parents today worry about whom their child will marry.
		1. Will there be a person sexually clean and pure.
		2. We must teach them to be the right person giving them a greater hope of finding the right person.
	7. Imagine a mountain with a beautiful valley below.
		1. There is a winding road leading from the top to the valley below.
		2. The road has steep cliffs, sharp precipices, obstacles and few, if any, guardrails.
		3. There is a line of cars starting down the road.
		4. Two people are in the car; headed to the happy valley.
		5. They pick up passengers along the way.
		6. All along the road are wrecks.
		7. The passengers are being broken and maimed.
		8. This is a picture, an illustration of marriage in America today.
	8. We need to have compassion on those whose car (marriage) has been wrecked.
		1. We need to be building some barricades, some safety rails and remove some of the obstacles that are causing the wrecks.
			1. Satan has pointed all the artillery of Hell against the home.
		2. We need to teach the drivers how to drive; some instruction.
	9. Broken homes create broken people that have more broken homes that create more broken people.
		1. This is not an irreversible cycle.
		2. We need to teach our children how to have a godly marriage.
2. WE MUST TEACH YOUNG PEOPLE (Genesis 2:21-24)
	1. We must teach our young people God’s plan for marriage.
		1. Genesis 2:21-24
	2. We must teach young people the priority of marriage.
		1. Genesis 2:24
			1. This verse describes the pure essence of marriage.
		2. The highest priority of human relationships is not parent to child or child to parent, but mate to mate.
			1. Therefore, we as parents must be preparing our children to leave us.
		3. Many parents desire to give their children what their parents could not give to them.
			1. They need to make sure they are giving their children the things their parents did give to them.
	3. We must teach young people the permanence of marriage.
		1. The Hebrew terminology in this passage has the idea of welding or gluing together.
		2. It is not people who put themselves together; it is God
		3. Mark 10:9
		4. People who stay married and people who get divorced have the same problems.
		5. The difference is not in their problems, it is in their commitment.
	4. We must teach young people the purpose of marriage.
		1. “*The two will be one flesh*.”
			1. Genesis 2:24
			2. This deals with more than simply a sexual union, but also includes an emotional and spiritual union.
		2. Marriage is a romance where both the hero and the heroine die, and they become one new person.
		3. Marriage is for more than just the mere propagation of the race; God intended for marriage to provide mutual love, comfort, satisfaction, fulfillment and joy.
	5. When God says, “Thou shalt not,” He is saying, “Do not hurt yourself.” When God says, “Thou shalt,” He is saying, “Help yourself to happiness.”
	6. With this seventh commandment, God is not trying to keep you from intimacy, but trying to keep intimacy for you.
		1. Hebrews 13:4
3. WE NEED TO WARN YOUNG PEOPLE (Exodus 20:14)
	1. To adulterate means to make impure.
		1. When one adulterates marriage, then he or she has made impure something that God values very highly and wonderfully.
	2. Adultery is a sin against one’s own self.
		1. 1 Corinthians 6:18
			1. There’s no sin that will do more personal damage spiritually, mentally and physically than immorality.
	3. Adultery is a sin against the home and against the children in that home.
		1. “The man who commits adultery tells his child, ‘Your mother is not worth much and your father is a liar and a cheat. Furthermore, honor is not nearly as important as please. In fact, my child, my own satisfaction is more important than you are.’”
		2. The lives of innocent children are impacted through immorality.
	4. Adultery is a sin against the church.
		1. None of us live unto ourselves or die unto ourselves.
		2. 1 Corinthians 3:17
		3. As believers, we are part of one family; the family of God.
		4. When a church member is sexually immoral, he or she sins against the holy body of Christ.
	5. Adultery is a sin against one’s nation.
		1. Historians tell us that the sin of immorality caused the downfall of once dominant nations.
			1. The Roman Empire
			2. Greece
			3. Egypt
			4. Ancient Babylon
			5. Immorality may very well be the sin that destroys America.
		2. The raging waters of God’s wrath are furiously pounding against the dam of His mercy.
			1. One day that dam of mercy will give way to the waters of God’s wrath.
		3. Proverbs 14:34
		4. Deuteronomy 22:22
		5. The enemy of the home is the enemy of society.
			1. People who treat sex lightly will treat other people lightly, and the society falls.
	6. Adultery is a sin against Almighty God.
		1. Exodus 20:14
		2. Psalm 51:4
		3. Proverbs 6:32
		4. The Ten Commandments are not advice, but they are holy laws.
			1. Law without penalty is only advice.
		5. A pure life is not simply an option one might choose as a Christian.
			1. If a believer is not living a life of sexual purity, they have no right to call themselves a Christian.
			2. 1 Corinthians 6:9
			3. Ephesians 5:5
			4. Revelation 21:8
			5. If we are followers of Jesus Christ and disobey His commandments, then there will be chastisement.
				1. Hebrews 12:8
			6. Romans 2:5
	7. We need to warn our children, for their welfare, about the dangers of sexual immorality.
4. WE NEED TO SHOW YOUNG PEOPLE
	1. We need to model before our children obedience to and love for God and His commandments.
	2. We need to model a healthy marriage before our children.
	3. Keys to strengthening your marriage:
		1. Decision - decide for Christ.
			1. Isaiah 1:18
			2. Give your heart to the Lord Jesus today.
			3. If you have failed and sinned, bring it to Jesus.
			4. Jesus Christ does not hold grudges; He forgives.
		2. Dependence - depend upon Jesus Christ.
			1. Let His life in you energize you.
			2. Jesus Christ doesn’t merely forgive you and then say, “Now do better.”
				1. Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to live inside of us, to energize us and give us daily the ability to live for Him.
		3. Devotion – be devoted to Christ and to your family.
			1. Ephesians 5:25
			2. Pour out your love to Christ and to your family.
			3. God commanded us to love; this is not a suggestion.
		4. Development - let your love continue to grow.
			1. Love is not like a diamond: a static thing we stumble upon or acquire and keep to treasure forever.
			2. Love is more like a flower that needs to be cultivated, nurtured and cared for so that it can grow.
			3. If you do not love your spouse more today than when you got married, you love them less.
			4. Continue to develop and feed your love from day to day, from week to week, from year to year, with the very best resources of your living.
			5. Never flirt with anyone else other than your spouse.
			6. Never stop flirting with your spouse.
			7. Keep the honey in the honeymoon.
		5. Discipline - guard your company.
			1. Proverbs 13:20
			2. Friends that urge you to sin are not friends.
			3. Be careful what you set before your eyes.
				1. Watch what you watch.
			4. Be mindful of the old adage: garbage in, garbage out.
			5. Proverbs 6:27
			6. “He who would not fall down ought not walk in slippery places.”
			7. 1 Corinthians 6:18
		6. Determination - make up your mind.
			1. Joshua 24:15
			2. When you make one big decision, it will help you with many other smaller decisions.
5. CONCLUSION
	1. God’s plan is purity for marriage.
	2. If you have failed, God is the God of second chances.
		1. John 8:10-11
	3. If you have a broken heart or a broken home, bring it to Jesus.
	4. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
	5. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
		1. Romans 3:23
		2. Romans 10:9-10
		3. Romans 10:13
		4. Acts 16:31
		5. John 3:16