

Name: _____

Abiding Savior Free Lutheran Church Confirmation

The Sixth Commandment

After completing the lesson, the student will be able to:

- Know from memory the 6th Commandment
- Summarize what the 6th Commandment means for our lives
- List at least 3 truths about marriage that are put forth in the Bible
- List at least 3 responsibilities of marriage that are set forth in the Bible
- Define the terms adultery and fornication
- Know “Who” created sex
- List ways we can avoid sexual temptation

THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT

1. Use your catechism to write in the following information about the Sixth Commandment. Please copy it word for word below.

What is the Sixth Commandment?

What does this mean?

The Sixth Commandment

God’s desire from the beginning of creation has been the idea of one woman and one man joined together as husband and wife. When God began the first marriage in the Garden of Eden He created the first family, and that has become the foundation from which society grows and is strengthened and supported. God’s desire is that the husband and wife should love and honor each other. It is that love and honor, along with consideration, faithfulness, encouragement, honesty and acceptance which builds a home.

One of the finest gifts that God gives to the husband and wife is the gift of their sexuality. It is through this gift that God not only creates a family, but also binds together the husband and wife in complete surrender and intimacy. It is this picture that God chooses to help us understand that he wants our relationship with himself to be even better than the best marriages we can think of. It is because this is such a great gift of God that Satan wants to destroy and pervert the beautiful and loving plans that God has for the people of His choosing. (Introduction borrowed from Pastor Herb Hoff, Salinas, CA).

Marriage

It is interesting to note that while the 5th Commandment dealt especially with wronging our neighbor (murder), this commandment deals with that person who is the nearest and dearest to us (if we are married or do get married someday) - our spouse. Let us look first to see what God says about marriage.

2. Read Genesis 2:18-24: Who ordained or created marriage? What do you think “one flesh” means?

3. Read Matthew 19:4-6: What is marriage? Who are the individuals that make up a marriage?

4. Read 1 Corinthians 7:2: Who are men to marry? Who are women to marry? Are men to ‘marry’ other men... or women ‘marry’ other women?

We see from these passages that God created marriage. He intends marriage to be between one man and one woman, and its duration is to be life-long. The ‘one flesh’ relationship is so intimate and special that to attempt to break will cause harm to both parties. In short, God’s design for marriage is for life, and it is to be with one spouse.

5. What does God require of married people in each of the following verses?

1 Corinthians 7:10

Ephesians 5:24-25, 33

Colossians 3:18-19

Hebrews 13:4

Adultery and Fornication

A couple terms are important for us to understand as we look to the commandment: *Adultery* is specifically the sharing of our bodies in a sexual way to any other individual other than our spouse when we are married. Adultery means to ‘corrupt, debase, or make impure’. When one commits adultery, he/she breaks the marriage covenant and corrupts and damages the marriage bond. *Fornication* is used to describe sexual activity before marriage.

Both adultery and fornication are regarded as sin in God's eyes. Even though the term used in the Sixth Commandment is 'adultery', it does not mean God has nothing to say about fornication. Rather, both adultery and fornication are condemned by this commandment, and both married and unmarried individuals are called to live a chaste and pure life.

Reference page 51 in your Small Catechism as you answer the following questions:

6. When is adultery committed?
7. What are some of the consequences of adultery?
8. How can one protect themselves from this sin?

Sex in itself is pure and holy gift from God. It is intended to be enjoyed within the confines of the marriage covenant and is not to be used in any other way. One gift that you give to your future spouse is your body, and God's will (and my prayer) is that you would keep it holy and pure until the day you are married.

9. The 6th Commandment is broken not only when we physically commit a sexual sin. According to these verses, what other ways does Jesus say someone might commit adultery?

Matthew 5:27-28

Matthew 15:19

What we watch, read, and listen to impacts the way we live, think, talk, and interact with others. If we always dwell on sexual and inappropriate things, it follows that our lives will most likely display sexual sin in our thoughts, the words we say, and in our actions. On the other hand, if we fill our mind and lives with that which is pure, holy, and uplifting, it will be all the more difficult for the devil to throw those darts of impurity at us!

10. It is very popular in our day to joke, mock, or talk foolishly about sexual topics and sexual things. On page 51 in your Catechism, the phrase “lead a chaste and pure life *in word...*” (emphasis mine) is used. Based on the following verses, what would God think about telling or laughing at sexual, inappropriate, or dirty jokes?

Ephesians 4:29

Ephesians 5:4

Colossians 4:6

11. It is also common for television shows and movies to contain sexual images, jokes, and even depict sexual sin. Many popular songs celebrate and openly speak of sexual things and of sexual sins like adultery, fornication, lust, and rape. As a Christian, what should your response to these movies, tv shows, and songs be? Is it okay to watch or listen to these sorts of things? What does each of these verses say about it?

Job 31:1

Psalms 101:3

Ephesians 5:3

Philippians 4:8

1 Peter 2:11

12. No one will argue with the observation that we live in a culture that encourages you to be impure and to be sexually immoral. How can you protect yourselves from the temptation to be impure? What suggestions can we see in the following Bible verses?

Psalm 119:11

Proverbs 1:10

Matthew 26:41

Romans 13:14

1 Corinthians 6:18

1 Corinthians 15:33

2 Timothy 2:22

Final Words

Marriage is a lifelong covenant made before God and between one man and one woman. In marriage the husband and wife pledge their love and faithfulness to one another as long as they both shall live. Marriage is ordained by God Himself, and it is holy, sacred, and sanctified. It is God's will that the marriage bond never be broken by adultery, which is unfaithfulness to one's partner. The Bible teaches that the married couple should love, honor, and respect one another, and to share oneself in a sexual way with their marital partner. Marriage, with all of its privileges and responsibilities is one of God's greatest gifts to mankind. The prohibition of adultery is intended as a protection of this great gift.

We will close with the words of Martin Luther in his Large Catechism:

"Let it be said in conclusion that this commandment requires everyone not only to live chastely in thought, word, and deed in his particular situation (that is, especially in the estate of marriage), but also to love and cherish the wife or husband whom God has given. For marital chastity it is above all things essential that husband and wife live together in love and harmony, cherishing each other whole-heartedly and with perfect fidelity."

Student & Parent Questions: *for the student and a parent to discuss and answer together*

1. Ephesians 5:3 says, “*But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity...*” Are there tv shows, movies, video games, or songs your family watches or listens to that oppose or degrade what the Bible teaches about marriage and sex?

2. What is one example of how each member of your family (parents and children alike) can live a pure and holy life in regards to sex and/or marriage?

STUDENT & PARENT SIGNATURE:

By signing below, we affirm (1) this lesson is complete and that (2) we completed the “Student & Parent Questions” section together

Parent Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____