

Remain Faithful - November 15, 2017

Parents this is the lesson that we taught on November 15, concerning the 6th Commandment, “You Shall Not Commit Adultery”. Included in this lesson is some resources to review. You may read this through with your student and answer the questions. There is also a Parent / Student Discussion sheet that you should go over as a family.

Nothing needs to be turned in for make-up.

Resources

Sex Wise Parent

ELCA Social Statement Summary:

Introduction and Review of the 10 Commandments

Review 10 Commandments

God created us for relationships.

God knew that is it not good for us to be alone,
We are better as a community.

The world is complex and challenging and God gives us these commandments because God love us and want to protect us, nurture us, and build up our community.

Commandments are about relationships, with God, with one another, and with self.

Commandments 1 - 3 (Honor God, Honor God’s name, Honor God’s day)
We keep these and we build a stronger relationship with God

Commandments 4 - 8 (Honor parents, Respect life, faithfulness, property, reputation)

Commandments 9 & 10 (Protecting self from the the world’s pressures)

We are to Fear and Love God...We Honor God, when we honor our relationships

Question to Think about

How do we live faithfully in a complex world?

How do we serve our neighbor?

How do we love our neighbor?

Read Romans 13: 9 - 10 ⁹*The commandments, ‘You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet’; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’* ¹⁰*Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.*

Human relationships are based on TRUST, FAITHFULNESS, and COMMITMENT.

6th Commandment:

1. What is the 6th Commandment?
2. What is Adultery?
3. What does Luther say is the meaning behind this commandment?

At the time scripture and Luther, we think about this commandment only for a married couple. It is for married couples to remain faithful to one another and not to have a romantic / intimate relationship with someone else other than their spouse.

But in a more modern world we see that this commandment is more than just one for those in a married relationship. It can speak to us in all of our relationships, but especially for our relationships that lead up to marriage. People are called to build trust in relationships and in community.

Relationships

4. What components does a good, healthy relationship have?

Relationships are built on TRUST, FAITHFULNESS, and COMMITMENT

Trust is a critical element that holds together couples and relationships, households, and families, and communities. Trust is essential. No relationship can survive without trust.

So how do we have a trustworthy relationship in a complex world?

How do we live faithfully in a complex world?

How do we live in a committed relationship in a complex world?

You have to ask yourself, is this relationship causing separation between you and God and you and others. When do you know it is causing harm? Trust! You trust the people that are close to you, listen to them, listen to your heart.

Early Relationships

Healthy Relationships start at home. Children learn either to trust or distrust from their relationship with their parents and others in the household. These relationships will determine their future relationships.

Relationships are good. It is what God wants for our lives. But when sin and human complexity comes into those relationships it can be harmful. So relationships can be risky, because it is dealing with the human heart. It can be harmful emotionally and physically.

Establishing Boundaries

How do you know when a relationship is causing harm? When entering into a romantic relationship you need to be able to establish boundaries for yourself. You need to be able to know, before entering that relationship, before you begin dating, how you are going to let other people treat you. Know how to say no and say stop!

Think about what your non-negotiables are. Where are your boundaries? Make it very clear to the one you are dating what those are.

The greatest commandment that God gives to us is to love God with all our heart and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Romans 3 says when we follow these commandments we “love our neighbor”.

Respect all people, and that includes the people you have relationships with. This is not just about protecting your heart from harm but it is about respecting the heart of others. Every relationship affects the ones in your future and their future. When we love and honor our relationship, the people we are dating, in turn we are loving and honoring the person we will marry in future.

What does the church say about these relationships

It is about timing. You can't have a healthy relationship without trust and commitment. And those are things that build over time.

The degrees of physical intimacy should be carefully matched to the degrees of growing affections and commitment and trust. Again this happens over time. Casual relationships and intimacy lacks commitment and can be harmful to yourself and others.

What does God want for you? To wait. Wait for that trust to build, wait for the commitment to strengthen. This happens the best in the covenant and promise of marriage. When the trust and commitment is there, the physical relationship compliments the foundation. (Physical can't come first) The strongest relationships are those surrounded by prayers of your family and friends. Those relationships that are committed and held accountable by the affirmation of the community.

Love is a gift from God. It is meant to keep us safe.

Read 1 Corinthians 13: 4 - 8, 13 *4 Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸ Love never ends. ¹³ And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.*

5. Which one of these stands out to you the most? Why?

Who is the right person for you?

6. How do you know who is the right person with you? *Talk about it*

TRUST is understood as a fundamental character of a RIGHT relationship

Positive Self Image

Healthy, trusting relationships shape confident, healthy and responsible people. We want to be the best people we can be, and that includes appropriate care for all aspects of a person, including the body.

Read 1 Corinthians 6: 19 - 20 *¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body*

7. What do you think this passage for Paul is telling us about our body?

A healthy sense of sexuality is related to having a healthy body image. Be comfortable with their bodies, the way they look, how they present themselves. Respect and honor our privacy, and their wishes for welcome and unwelcome touch.

Think about those things that affect your self image....

- Clothes you wear and the message they send to others
- What you see on television and internet - positive / negative images
- How you let other people treat you

Consequences & Forgiveness

When we break this commandment, when we are loose with our heart, our relationships, and our bodies, when we fail to protect them, many things are damaged. It is a breakdown of TRUST. Relationships are damaged, people are hurt. You have to ask yourself, is this relationship causing separation between you and God and you and others.

People are flawed and imperfect. Rethink our actions. Forgiveness is sought, Forgiveness is given, then trust can be restored.

Read John 8: 1 - 11 ¹while Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. ²Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. ³The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, ⁴they said to him, 'Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. ⁵Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?' ⁶They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. ⁷When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, 'Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.' ⁸And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. ⁹When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. ¹⁰Jesus straightened up and said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' ¹¹She said, 'No one, sir.' And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.'

Just cause we make one mistake does not mean we are tarnished with that mistake forever. We need to seek forgiveness from God and from those that we hurt. We need to learn to forgive ourselves. And then start building that trust in our relationships again.

Marriage & Divorce

Marriage is one of those beautiful forms of human relationships.

It provides a context of love, trust, honesty, and commitment that a couple can express joy of that relationship and get through tough times throughout life.

Marriage is Hard and challenging at times.

Sin enters in and out of all relationships.

All marriages fall short of intentions.

Marriage is Hard and challenging and challenging. Difficulties are inevitable.

Sometimes the trust in marriages are so deeply damaged that marriages need to come to a legal end.

God's presence is there and forgiveness and healing is given.

Remarry may gain wisdom from the past and enter into a new relationship that can be filled with joy and hope.

Homosexuality

We as a church accept all people who they are, for who God made them.

We accept people of all sexual orientations.

We encourage strong, healthy, life-long relationships, in all relationships (including heterosexual relationships and homosexual relationships)

We support public accountability and legal support for those commitments

There is different understandings as where these relationships are placed within the Christian Community. This includes a different opinion on whether “marriage’ is the appropriate term.

Even though the church lacks consensus - we try to focus **NOT** on our differences in this matter but what we agree on:

- encourages all people to live out their faith in the community with mutual respect and love for all neighbors
- opposes all forms of verbal / physical harassment and assault based on sexual orientation.
- Supports protection of civil right and prohibits discriminations
- Encourages all congregations to welcome and care for, and support all families

Marriage of gay and lesbian persons is legal in Colorado.

- ELCA supports life-long committed monogamous relationships
- The church recognizes same-gender unions
- It is a matter of pastoral care and left up to pastors discretion with an on-going dialogue with their congregations.
- Encourages us to be tolerant and understanding of one another.

We will continue to accompany one another through our disagreements