



# The Sixth Commandment, Part 2

by Pastor Glenn Huebel

*You shall not commit adultery.*

Part one of this commandment dealt with the sexual revolution in our country and the importance and value of chastity. In this article, I will deal with the commandment as it relates to the issue of homosexuality and the institution of marriage. These two topics have coalesced in our present culture, and polls reveal a movement away from God’s good and wise design and order. Many Christians are also being deceived. This confusion has arisen because we have drifted away from

the basic concept of creation and a Creator. Through most of Church history the second article of the Creed (Redemption) was under attack. Today the devil has pulled out all stops to rage against the first article (Creation), and this frontal assault has succeeded beyond all expectations. The teaching of evolution is beginning to bring forth its spiritual harvest of pride and fearless defiance of God’s order. The divinely instituted and time-tested structures of society are collapsing. What new

structures will arise in a world where the very concept of truth is mocked, authority is despised, and the whole idea of accountability before God is ridiculed? The ephemeral emotion of “love” without boundaries and without objective truth will not sustain a culture. Satan knows that quite well.

Homosexuality is a perversion of God’s created order (Rom 1:24ff;

1 Cor 6:9-11). We should not soft peddle this confrontation as if St. Paul went a bit too far. Homosexuality was as prominent and acceptable in the days in which Scripture was written as it is now and God speaks very bluntly and clearly on the subject. We may want to help God out, but as usual, the best thing we can do is get out the way and let the Spirit do His thing. He is earnestly concerned with saving people and we are too often concerned with saving ourselves. We may know spiritual CPR, but He is the great physician of the soul. It should be obvious, even without the aid of special revelation, that sex is designed for the male – female relationship. This is evident not only in the complimentary design of body parts, but in the natural purpose of the sexual union - reproduction. C.S. Lewis observed that the sexual drive, more than any other, has been corrupted by the fall. This is why it so frequently overruns its natural boundary of monogamy and strays into forbidden territory. When all moral boundaries are removed this drive, controlled by the sinful flesh,

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Rembrandt, *Moses With the Ten Commandments*. 1659. Oil on canvas, 168.5 cm x 136.5 cm. Gemäldegalerie, Berlin

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*That you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name. —John 20:31*

can venture into incredibly perverse practices in the quest to satisfy evil lust. (I am speaking about a danger to which all of us are subject, not just a few.) One only has to read the daily newspaper to find examples. The world has duped many Christians today into believing every “natural desire” is good and noble and should be protected – that it is one’s “civil right” to exercise “natural desires.” Christians know – or should know – how terribly misguided this philosophy is. Since nature has been corrupted through sin our “natural” desires are also corrupted. Jesus said, “Out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander” (Mt 15:19). Jeremiah wrote, “The heart of man is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. Who can know it?” (Jer 17:9). Just because a person has an appetite for something, or a desire for something, or an orientation in a certain direction, does NOT mean God made him that way or that God is pleased if he acts in accordance with his desires. Just imagine the implications of applying the world’s philosophy across the board. Just imagine what it will be like to live in a culture in which the very term “deviant sexual behavior” is considered an expression of bigotry because it implies that someone’s natural desires may be wrong. You bet natural desires can be wrong. Yours and mine are wrong, and we know that quite well because we live in the light of God’s revelation. The light of the law shows us just how wrong they really are. This is why we confess our sins.

I am not picking on homosexuals any more than I’m picking on men who indulge their fleshly desires by frequenting strip clubs or prostitutes,

or men and women who seek to satisfy the evil flesh through pornography or erotic literature, or married people who are sexually unfaithful to their spouses, or single people who engage in sex outside of the bond of marriage. ALL of this is taking a wonderful gift God intended for our blessing and using it in a vile way to serve our sinful lusts. God didn’t give us the gifts of creation so that we might abuse them. The claim that we are only doing what we were born to do is an absurd excuse. That we DESIRE to do exactly what the law forbids shows only how deeply sin penetrates our being (proof of original sin).

Does this mean God does not love homosexuals? Of course not! “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.” Love doesn’t get any deeper than a man dying for His beloved, and Christ died for us when we were enemies of His (Rom 8:5). God loves homosexuals and adulterers and prostitutes and drug dealers, and people addicted to pornography and people who are engaged in unimaginable filth and perversion. No one in the world is outside of God’s love. If that were not true we would all have a lot more to worry about than whether God loves “those people.” We would have no reasonable assurance that He loves US. Well, if God loves homosexuals, shouldn’t we love them too? Absolutely! Where did Christians ever get the idea that they must hate those who violate God’s law? WE violate God’s law! Jesus loved (and loves) SINNERS, thanks be to God. Furthermore, Jesus explicitly commands us to love sinners, not only fellow Christians, but even those who hate and persecute us. We are not even excused from loving and doing good

to our enemies (Matt 5:44). May we shun and ridicule homosexuals or participate in bullying them? Is there a Christian who doesn’t know the answer to that question? Many Christians suffer anguish over the revelation that a loved one has declared himself or herself to be homosexual. Must the actions of our loved ones change our attitude toward God’s law? Is it possible to hold to a clear and inflexible moral standard and truly love everyone at the same time? Jesus did it, and they called Him Beelzebub. It is not such a heavy cross to be slandered as a “bigot” for His Name’s sake (Matt 10:25).

That brings us to the issue of homosexual marriage which is really a contradiction in terms. Marriage is not a human invention. It is a gift, inextricably bound up in Creation itself. The majesty of marriage is reflected in the fact that the whole creation story builds up to the wedding of Adam and Eve. God created sun, moon, stars and earth, and planted a garden so that Adam and his beloved bride would have a place to live forever. Even after the fall God described His salvation as a marriage, the Savior as a bridegroom, and the redeemed as a bride. The Spirit inspired Paul to compare the role of husband and wife to Christ and the Church, the most remarkable and glorious relationship of love in history. Heaven itself is described as the marriage feast. Is there any human relationship in the world that comes anywhere close to the glory and beauty of this one? God created male and female for this marriage union, and one of the primary purposes for it is to beget children.

One of the saddest commentaries of  
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the sinful human condition is how shamefully we have treated this sacred, heavenly gift. Think of God the Father presenting His glorious Eve to entrust to the care of Adam. What joy for God, for Adam, and for Eve. How the angels must have rejoiced at this wedding. Can we even imagine the horror they must feel to see a wife brutalized by her husband or a husband emasculated by the sharp tongue of his wife? Can we even begin to appreciate the grief God feels when the sacred bond He creates is cast off and broken by selfish individuals who prefer their freedom to roam rather than their privilege to serve their God-given spouse? Jesus attributes the refusal to honor the marriage vow and the marriage bed to the “hardness of man’s heart” (Matt 19:8). Hardness of heart is a term which describes a deeply set stain of sin and an obstinate refusal to repent. It is a deadly spiritual disease. God have mercy upon us all for our own offenses against this sacred gift.

And now we have the promotion of what, to previous generations, was simply unthinkable – homosexual marriage. This is the devil’s version of a sense of humor. It is mockery and ridicule of a sacred and precious gift of God. It is equivalent to Antiochus Epiphanes IV sacrificing a pig on the Jewish altar in Jerusalem in order to insult the true God and to desecrate the holy place (169 AD). It is like Belshazzar commanding the holy vessels of the Temple of Israel to be brought to an orgy so that the drunken partiers could drink out of them (Daniel 5). Marriage is NOT a human institution that mankind can change and abuse in any way he wishes in order to serve his own whims, and especially not to legitimize what

God Himself calls an abomination (Lev 18:22). Why is there such a push today for homosexual MARRIAGE (which is no marriage at all)? What civil rights are actually denied outside of this institution? Can a patient not authorize anyone he wishes to make medical decisions for him or exercise power of attorney? Can a person not make a will to leave his estate to anyone he wishes (including his cat or dog)? Does not a homosexual already have a right to adopt children? Is he really envious of those who get to pay the marriage penalty tax? Can he not now live with anyone he wants, and is he or she not free to do whatever desired in the privacy of his home? And if there is yet some legal right withheld because they are not married, can we just yield it to them? What is the advantage of accommodating the institution of marriage to sexual preference? Simply this – legitimacy. They want the State and indeed the nation to pronounce homosexuality as good and right. But legal and moral are two different things, and ever will be. The State can and will justify all kinds of immorality (like abortion), but this judgment will not stand in the only court that really matters, the courtroom of God, the final judgment.

Herod and Herodius did not like John the Baptist calling them out for their adulterous relationship. They imprisoned and finally killed him for his refusal to compromise his preaching in the face of their intimidation. Like John we have the commission to prepare the world for the coming of Christ through the proclamation of repentance and remission of sins in His Name (Luke 24:47). We also have ample historical examples of church

accommodation to the world for the sake of peace and favor. It has never served the welfare of the Kingdom and has usually fostered its demise. If we love homosexuals we must tell them the truth in love for the sake of their eternal souls. The same is true for those who despise the gift of sex and marriage in any other way as well. We must learn the art of doing good and loving people without compromising the integrity of our divine mission. If we love falsely by confirming the sinner in his sin and giving him a way out so that he can escape the cross, we are guilty of his blood (Ezek 33:8). If we faithfully do the task that the Lord has given us to do, the Spirit will work repentance and faith where and when He wills in those who hear and we will have friends to welcome us in heaven.

Homosexuals are not saved in any different way than the rest of us poor miserable sinners - through the death of repentance and the new life of faith in Christ the Savior. May God give us true love for all people, true wisdom to discern right from wrong, good from evil, and courage to be His people, holding forth the word of life in a crooked and perverse world. Please pray for Christian pastors as they face the increasingly difficult spiritual temptations arising from our unstable culture.

Blessings,  
Pastor Huebel



## Messiah Lutheran Church & School

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Classical Academy (K—8): (817) 431-5486

Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School & Adult Bible Class: 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Glenn Huebel, Senior Pastor

Rev. Dennis Kitzmann, Assistant Pastor

Mrs. Ellen Malzahn, Principal, Academy

Mrs. Alison Smith, Principal, Early Childhood Center

Mrs. Vicki Main, Kantor

Mr. Joseph Sustrik, Financial Director

[www.messiahkeller.org](http://www.messiahkeller.org)

## Youth Retreat 2013



The youth group of Messiah Lutheran Church will be taking its annual youth retreat to Port Aransas, Texas, from June 10-13. This year we have packed two 15 passenger vans and added a cargo van for the luggage. These retreats include several hours of Bible Study and usually a service project.

This year our study is based upon a new book published by Concordia Publishing House called “Broken.” Pastor Jonathan Fisk addresses his words especially to youth who may be tempted by various “Christian” forms that derive from non-Christian sources. He exposes idolatry in the Name of Christianity. It is a thought-provoking and challenging study.

## April Family Campout



**Vacation Bible School**  
**June 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Tell It on the Mountain**  
**Where Jesus Christ Is Lord**

### Volunteers are still needed!

For detailed information about any of the needs, please contact Elizabeth Johnson ([ethanellie@gmail.com](mailto:ethanellie@gmail.com)) or Tamarra Liddle ([fremantleaussie@gmail.com](mailto:fremantleaussie@gmail.com)).

Thank you for your willingness to help us give the children a fantastic VBS experience.  
—Elizabeth and Tamarra