

## Exodus 20:14 Be faithful!



The second of these “You shall not”s, which we must once again make sure we see a positive side to: commending faithfulness as well as condemning its opposite.

Of this group of Commandments, this must be the one which finds us most at odds with “the spirit of the age”. We must be all the more careful, therefore, to ensure that our thinking is not just informed, but fully formed and directed by the Word of God.

- What do you make of the following quotations?

*If the sixth command prohibited regarding our neighbour as expendable, the seventh prohibits regarding our neighbour as consumable.*  
Jen Wilkin, *Ten Words to Live By*

*Sadly, it's not just the Methodist Church that is compromising God's plan for marriage. But amongst Christians, the debate is not truly about marriage or sex - it's about whether we have confidence that God is real and he knows what's best for us.*

*Christian Concern*, commenting on the Methodist Conference's vote this week

- **What doesn't it ban?**

Christians have often been accused of being opposed to sexual pleasure. How fair is the accusation? Is it still the case? How are we to avoid being too restrictive or too lax?

Consider 1 Timothy 6:17, Proverbs 5, Song of Solomon 4:16-5:1

- **Don't be limited by the literal** (Matthew 5:27-32)

So how can we define, recognise and fight “adultery of the heart”?

- **Flip it over**

Faithfulness, more broadly, is part of the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22). How can we cultivate this in all areas of life?

Remember God's character: Exodus 34:6, Psalms 33:4, 36:5, 100:5, 1 Corinthians 10:13, 2 Thessalonians 3:3, Hebrews 10:23, 1 John 1:9

***May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God  
and to the steadfastness of Christ.***

(2 Thessalonians 3:5)