

Lord's Day 41

Heidelberg Catechism

The Third Part – Of Thankfulness

Question 108

What doth the seventh commandment teach us?

Answer

That all uncleanness is accursed of God;¹ and that therefore we must with all our hearts detest the same,² and live chastely and temperately,³ whether in holy wedlock or in single life.⁴

Question 109

Doth God forbid in this commandment only adultery and such like gross sins?

Answer

Since both our body and soul are temples of the Holy Ghost, He commands us to preserve them pure and holy; therefore He forbids all unchaste actions,⁵ gestures, words, thoughts, desires,⁶ and whatever can entice men thereto.⁷

1 Lev. 18:27

(For all these abominations have the men of the land done, which were before you, and the land is defiled;)

2 Deut. 29:20–23

The LORD will not spare him, but then the anger of the LORD and his jealousy shall smoke against that man, and all the curses that are written in this book shall lie upon him, and the LORD shall blot out his name from under heaven. And the LORD shall separate him unto evil out of all the tribes of Israel, according to all the curses of the covenant that are written in this book of the law: So that the generation to come of your children that shall rise up after you, and the stranger that shall come from a far land, shall say, when they see the plagues of that land, and the sicknesses which the LORD hath laid upon it; And that the whole land thereof is brimstone, and salt, and burning, that it is not sown, nor beareth, nor any grass groweth therein, like the overthrow of Sodom, and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim, which the LORD overthrew in his anger, and in his wrath:

3 1 Thes. 4:3, 4

For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor;

4 Heb. 13:4

Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

1 Cor. 7:4–9

The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency. But I speak this by permission, and not of commandment. For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that. I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I. But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn.

5 Eph. 5:3

But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

1 Cor. 6:18

Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

6 Matt. 5:28

But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

7 Eph. 5:18

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

1 Cor. 15:33

Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.