Dear Reader,

I am new to producing reading sermons. So, if you have any suggestions as to how I might improve my format or what I include – please email me at cdanielwilson@gmail.com. **I will warn you, that I do not use short sentences**. I will endeavor to work on this over time, but I don’t naturally write that way. However, you can easily break most of my longer sentences into 2 or 3 smaller ones where I have “…” or “–“ or commas. If you do the work on making it into smaller sentences – feel free to email it to me, and I am happy to share your work with others. I do have some of these available which people have sent me. I will eventually make them available as part of the normal manuscripts.

I have left my sermon manuscript formatted the way I normally write and read my sermons. They are colourful and written in conversational English. If you are a grammar nazi – then you will be frustrated with my punctuation and phrasing. However, once you read it out loud, you will normally be able to tell what I meant to say. SERIOUSLY, READ IT OUTLOUD. You will also see that I use a good bit of bold, italics, underlining and different colours to signal what are the most important things to say, and also to make it easier for my eye to pick up my place in the middle of paragraphs. I would recommend that you keep as many of those things as possible to help you keep your place. However, you will probably want to increase the spacing between lines. I highly encourage you to commit as much of the introduction or children’s illustrations to memory as you can, so that these can be delivered to the congregation with maximum eye contact.

**Where possible, I highly recommend that you listen to the sermon as I preached it at either the Nelson website or the website of North Shore.** I recommend that because that will also help hear the places where I added or skipped over material in the manuscript, and the places where I clarified my meaning. I have edited bits and pieces which I thought most important, but I have not sought to include all the additional material that comes to me while in the pulpit. I would practically have to use a transcription service for that. However, I hope and pray that this sermon will be a blessing to you and to your congregation. To God be the Glory!

Blessings in our Lord, Pastor Daniel Wilson

**My Suggestions for the Order of Service**

Song before the service: #202

Brothers and Sisters: ***Our help is in the name of the Lord … Doesn’t forsake wks of His hands***  Grace be yours in abundance, with Mercy and Peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ***Amen.***

Let us respond to God’s call to worship Him **Song #167 “We Praise thee O God”**

***We will profess our faith using Lord’s Day #1***

***{please be seated} – Continue to read Heidelberg Catechism LD#41***

***Scripture Reading: Proverbs 5***

 **Song of continued worship and Praise #311 “Approach my soul, the Mercy Seat”**

We come now to our time of Congregational Prayer:

***Scripture Reading: Proverbs 7***

**Let’s now cont. To worship as we bring to the Lord His Tithes and our Freewill offerings:** ***As the Deacons come ...***

*Let’s cont. to worship as we sing* **Our Song of Prep: Psalm #51B vs1-4 “God be Merciful to me”**

***Sermon Text: Deut. 5:18 + 1 Cor. 6:12-7:9 + 32-35 Sermon Title: “****Anti-Death… Not Anti-Sex”*

***Let us now sing a* song of Response *–* Psalm #51B “Gracious God my Heart Renew” *Vs.5-9***

***May God the Father*** *bless you & keep you,* ***May God the Son*** *turn His face toward you & be gracious to you,* ***May the Holy Spirit*** *lift up his countenance upon you & give you peace!* ***Amen***

***Doxology*: #117**

# **Evening Sermon: “Not Anti-Sex, only Anti-Death”**

Text: Deuteronomy 5:18, You shall not commit Adultery. Reading: Proverbs 5 & 7, I Corinthians 6:12-7:9 +32-35

**Introduction:** *Parents…**have you ever heard the following?* **“**You just don’t want me to have any fun!” **OR** “Awww Mom, You Never Let me do fun things I want to do” Children, have you ever said that?! I was most often tempted to say that when I wanted to do something dangerous and Mom and Dad said, “No!” For example, I loved fire and taking things apart when I was little, and as you can imagine, those are not a good mix! ***And my parents, in their wisdom, would tell me NO!*** ***because they knew it wasn’t safe.*** Now, **I hope you all know** that you should Trust Mom and Dad – If they say “No, Fire isn’t safe” … You should believe and obey them. But there is something in our hearts – something sinful and wicked which says – *Your parents can’t be trusted, they just don’t want you to have fun*… ***But Really, Your Parents just don’t want you to get burned! It isn’t that they don’t want you to have fun… They want to save your life!***

Many people approach the 7th commandment in the same way. They say, “Christians just don’t want anyone to have fun… God is a spoil-sport, He just wants to ruin the party.” But what these people ignore is the danger involved. As surely as setting a fire on your lap will burn you, so the deadly consequences of sexual sin cannot be avoided! When God forbids sexuality outside of marriage, He isn’t spoiling our fun, He is preserving our lives. He is saying, “No, don’t play with that, if not used properly, you could die!”

(**Review**) Last time, we looked at how you are to love your neighbor as yourself by promoting life in everything! And in a way, you will see that obeying the 6th commandment will lead you to obey the 7th… For if you preserve your life and the lives of others, then you won’t play around with the deadly consequences of adultery and breaking the 7th commandment! ***Now, there was one thing that I forgot to mention at the beginning of that sermon last time…*** *Because we have been so active in promoting anti-euthanasia & pro-life causes in recent months,* ***I didn’t want to focus our time in the 6th commandment only “out there” – instead, I wanted to focus on your sin and mine, so that we would better know how that commandment applies to us personally.*** *That is why we didn’t discuss abortion/euthanasia.*

***As we come to the 7th commandment this evening, we learn one central lesson:***

***Thesis: For God’s glory & your good, Do not fulfill sexual desire in any way outside the covenant of marriage.***

*We will divide the teaching on this commandment into its positive and negative aspects. However, we will spend the majority of our time dealing with the main focus of the law, which is the negative.* ***So those 2 aspects are****:*

1. **Negatively: Deny All Unlawful Sexual Pleasure**
2. **Positively: Delight in Marital Sexual Pleasure**

*We turn first to the negative of this commandment – what is forbidden:*

# **Deny All Unlawful Sexual Pleasure (REPEAT)**

* 1. **What is Unlawful Sexual Pleasure?**

The Heidelberg Catechism has defined this as unchastity: and everything which incites unchastity: which is broken down into actions, looks, talk, thoughts, or desires! Too often we are tempted to define adultery too narrowly. We tend to define it according to actions alone, **and many even** have the mindset of asking, “how far can I go before I am guilty of adultery?” But, the catechism directs us to the deeper meaning of adultery, which is explained by Jesus in Matthew 5:27-28, “*You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*” So, that longing look, that lustful look which undresses with the eye IS IN FACT ***Just as adulterous*** in God’s eyes. The Catechism lists these *types of adultery* in what I would call reverse order. Because Adultery begins as a desire to have what God hasn’t given you. That leads to thoughts of how that sin might be enjoyed, lustful fantasies in the mind. With such things on your mind, your eyes begin to look for objects of lust – which in our culture is abundantly available through internet pornography, advertisements, clothing catalogs and the revealing or tight clothes that average *men and women* show in public. But it is the desire, which leads to the thoughts, which guide the eyes, and from the overflow of your heart your mouth speaks of such wickedness (inappropriate jokes and discussions) – culminating in the actions of adultery – sexual acts outside of marriage: either with another man/woman or with yourself through masturbation.

 And in the 7th commandment, God calls you to deny all such desires, thoughts, looks, talk and actions! And as Jesus explains in Matthew 5, you should take whatever dramatic means necessary to cut this sin off… AS he said, “*If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell*.” There Jesus is teaching that there is no measure too drastic to get rid of sin! *However, physical amputation or gouging of eyes is NOT the* ***first*** *drastic measure that you take… If you think your problem is that bad… that you wonder if you need to gouge out your eyes… then there are a lot of other drastic steps to take before shedding blood! Talk to someone and get help first!*

* 1. **But Why should you so drastically Deny yourself this pleasure?**

*What is the danger of a little look or touch – how harmful could an inappropriate hug be… or a single kiss?*

Illicit Sexual Pleasure has an ACTUAL Appeal. There is a popular idea in our culture, “if something that feels this GOOD is wrong, then I don’t want to be right!” Adultery’s main appeal is that it is pleasant, attractive, fun etc., and even the Bible acknowledges that! **Proverbs 5, 6, and 7** Clearly describe the appeal of the adulterous woman: Her lips drip honey, her speech is smoother than oil, her beauty is captivating, her eyes are enticing, she is brazen and bold, she is the one who seduces (a man doesn’t have to work to get her excited), she kisses at first sight, and promises food in abundance, she has the finest linens from Egypt on her bed, perfumed with myrrh, aloes and cinnamon… **and she promises all this with love in secrecy** (for her husband has left home and won’t come back until the appointed time – she is saying: *no one will find out!* –Like Pornography’s slogan “in the privacy of your own home”) **and most of all she comes for you**, just for you, and she finds you – as if she truly cared for you more than all others… but that is just the first part of the picture… just what she wants you to see, Look at the bait and you won’t see the hook. Enjoy the bait and you won’t realize you are caught and being drawn to your death until too late!

And that beautiful bait leads to death! Compare what happens to that smooth speech, sweet taste… ***Sweet gives way to being as*** *bitter as gall (vinegar)* ***Smooth gives way to*** *sharp as double-edged sword* ***Her appeal follows*** *a path going down to death (steps lead straight to grave)* ***She is so inviting thoughtless*** *to her crooked ways (she doesn’t know her own danger)* ***The promise of abundant food and meat vanishes*** *reducing a man to a loaf bread* ***Seductive pleasing speech gives way*** *to blows, disgrace and shame!* ***While her appeal is to you,*** *many are her victims, her slain are a mighty throng which followed her highway to the grave!*

***Why should you deny/refuse this sexual pleasure? Because it is sinning against yourself! Against your own soul/body!***

And If you are a Christian, then your body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit! Paul explains this so powerfully in I Cor. 6! He explains that Believers are the members, LITERALLY, the Limbs, the arms and legs of the body of Christ! Should we take the right arm or hand of Christ and unite it to a harlot? Or a porn site? MAY IT NEVER BE! If you are a believer, then you are a part of the body of Christ, and the Holy Spirit lives in you – so every lustful desire, every illicit sexual thought, word or deed is done in full view of God Himself… as Solomon put it: “*Man’s ways are in full view of the Lord, and he examines all his paths!*” **This sin can never be truly secret, or harmless:** It is always seen by the Lord, damaging to you spiritually and physically, and is ultimately the same as bringing idols and harlots into God’s Temple!

*You MUST deny all Unlawful Sexual Pleasure, because your life and soul hang in the balance! As the Apostle Paul put it, You have been bought with a price, you don’t belong to yourself any longer – therefore* If you belong to Christ *glorify God in your bodies!*

*That idea of glorifying God in your bodies is what brings us SECONDLY to the positive implications of this commandment :*

# **Delight in Marital Sexual Pleasure (REPEAT)**

* 1. ***How do you* delight *in Marital Sexual Pleasure?***

First off: I say **delight** because God is not Anti-Sex, we see that clearly in Proverbs 5, and in similar language repeated through the Song of Solomon – **God is pro-sex in Marriage**, but not in a false way (as in only for procreation and making babies) but also for the delight in which we find in it. If that were not so, God would not have made it so pleasurable – He made our bodies with the equipment and ability to enjoy sex. And He commands you men to rejoice in the wife of your youth, satisfied with ***your*** wife’s body and captivated with **her love**. And that intense pleasure and excitement that is enjoyed between a man and his wife **is a picture of the joy that the church has in Christ.** For the marriage relationship is a picture of Christ and the church! That is what Song of Solomon is all about… that is why God created sex so pleasurable, because it gives us a faint tiny glimpse of the joy we will experience in heaven with Christ. **Not that heaven is somehow sexual in nature!** No, rather, at the wedding supper of the Lamb, in the presence of Christ Himself, we will experience a level of happiness that will be more intensely joyful than anything we can imagine. ***And sexual relations here on earth, within marriage, are a picture of that joy!*** In Heaven, you will not want or desire another god – Christ will be all in all – sufficient for all our needs! In a similar way, you who are married must delight in one another.

Married Men, don’t fantasize or think about other women (especially **not** the airbrushed inhuman types that serve as models). Instead, delight in the special joys of your wife, her personality, her hair, her eyes, her body and none other!

Married Women, don’t fantasize or think about other men, and especially don’t cut down or belittle your husband because he isn’t like your friend’s husbands! Instead, delight in the special gifts and strengths of your man, his personality, his intellect, his strength, and his body. As Paul teaches in I Corinthians, your body belongs to him and his belongs to you…

***But, what about the rest of you?*** *Not all of you are married… So:*

* 1. ***How do you delight in Marital Sexual Pleasure, when single?***

I’ll tell you right off: It is not by day-dreaming about how nice it would be, or by fantasizing about people whom you might want to marry one day.

No, a single person can delight in Marital Sexual Pleasure in two ways:

1. You keep yourself and others pure in preparation for marriage. You treat members of the other sex as brothers and sisters and NOT as objects of lust/desire. Single men, you treat every woman as a mother, a sister or as another man’s wife. For even if you are dating a girl, until you say “I do” she does not belong to you! Single women, you treat every man as a father, a brother or as another woman’s husband. Be pure and chaste in the way you dress and act around men so that you don’t communicate the wrong thing, or tempt them to lust after you because you are inappropriately dressed.
2. **The Second way** *you delight in Marital Sexual Pleasure when single* **is this:** You delight in God’s perfect will for you at this moment. Paul explains in I Corinthians 7 that single men and women have a special opportunity to serve the Lord unfettered by family responsibilities. In Marriage, one must be concerned for their spouse and family. When single, you can be completely devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. You can be pure and chaste (not for your spouse) but as an act of worship to God. You can spend more time serving Christ through work in the church and in personal prayer, Bible study and reflection. Find ways to serve Christ! And I encourage you to do just that – don’t waste that precious gift of singleness – rather use it to the Glory of God!

**Conclusion:**

Brothers and Sisters, through this commandment God calls each of us to chaste and holy lives. He calls us to deny adulterous sexual desires, thoughts, looks, words and actions, because they lead to death. And He calls us instead to delight in Marital Sexual Pleasure: We are either to devote ourselves to serving God and waiting on Him, or we are to enjoy the gift of sex with our own spouse within our marriage.

However, we are not all perfect in this area… Sadly, very few of us are untouched by sexual sin! If you have battled with any form of adultery – I plead with you in the words of Jesus Himself: *If your right eye offends you gouge it out and throw it away, or your right hand… cut it off and throw it away!* Nothing is too drastic a measure to take in order to get rid of sexual sin! For this sin is against yourself and the Holy Spirit – don’t take it lightly! Sins of this kind are best dealt with by radical accountability **– Men**, when I say radical accountability I mean being completely honest with your wife, **or if young/single-** to your father/elder and then finding an accountability partner who will ask you explicitly about your struggles! **Women,** Do not hide this sin or it could destroy you (and your family). Trust ME! I have seen it happen! A little sin hidden at a young age, grows and grows into bigger sin over the years – Don’t play with this fire, or you will get burned!

*Every one of us has broken this commandment in one way or another…* and It is all too easy to become bitter and depressed about mistakes made in this area, because sexual relations are so deeply personal. ***But, when dealing with your own sin or the sin of your spouse, or child, or a friend…the most important thing for you to keep in mind is the truth of Christ.*** YOU ARE NOT RIGHTEOUS BECAUSE OF YOUR ACTIONS! You do not earn God’s Favor! Instead, the “Good News” of the Gospel is that your broken sinful life can be replaced by the perfect life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ! Your value before God rests in your Substitute/Savior Jesus Christ! … NOT in yourself! Therefore, when you or someone you love falls into some adulterous sin – do not forget the forgiveness and grace offered to us in Christ! Remember it that you might have hope and KNOW God’s forgiveness, but also remember Christ so that you show that same grace and compassion to those who fall into this sin!

 God is more powerful and more gracious than your sin! Look to Him in Faith, for He will graciously forgive all who come to Him thru faith in Christ! **AMEN.**