

**June 12, 2022**

# Count to Ten

## *Important Info*

### *Study Help*

Along the way, you might consider these beneficial additional resources.

The first resource is Jen Wilkin's book "*Ten Words to Live By.*" Copies of this book can be purchased before or after Sunday services at Connection Central.

The second resource is a free online commentary that can be found at <https://bit.ly/3slhfjx>



### *Friendly Reminder*

Don't let your familiarity with the Ten Commandments prevent you from thinking deeply about what they mean in the life of the Church, and in your life specifically.

### *Important Dates*

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|-----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>June 1-July 27</b> | Summer Reading Club  |
| <b>June 13-17</b>     | Kids Virtual VBS     |
| <b>June 20-24</b>     | Generate Summer Camp |
| <b>June 27-July 1</b> | Connect Camp         |

Additional information for these events and more can be found online at [LegacyChurch.org](https://LegacyChurch.org)

### ***Scripture Memory*** ***(optional)***

You shall not commit adultery. - Exodus 20:14 (NIV)

# Exodus 20:14 & Matthew 5:27-30 & 2 Peter 2:14-19

## Opening

As with other commandments, today I want to offer a word of caution and of hope. The caution is that when it comes to the topic of adultery, and the many sexual sins that are at the root of adultery, wisdom and discernment, in speaking in a mixed group, needs to be exercised. This is not out of legalism, nor is it from a place of fear or extreme modesty, but rather it is from a place of wanting to protect one another from shame, pain, or stumbling. Extending grace and a listening ear while holding to truth will get you and your group to a healthy place. Use Scripture and allow the Holy Spirit to cultivate an environment where Light is shone on darkness. And that is actually the word of hope that I want to give. No matter the sin, confessing (agreeing with God that it is sin) and repenting is exactly what God is calling you to do. Jesus has paid for your sins, He knows what you have done (or are doing), and He freely welcomes you to come lay it down at His feet in forgiveness. You are not your sins, in Christ, you are a new creation! I pray that this study will help you find and receive the freedom you need. If you want to talk further, please ask a group member, one of your pastors, or a licensed Christian counselor to help you navigate in faith.

## Bible Study

The Moody Bible Commentary plainly states, *"God created marriage and the family and it must be honored for His sake. This commandment says in effect that any form of sexual expression (by either man or woman) outside of the bonds of marriage is a perversion (in both the most basic and the fullest sense of that term) and is prohibited."* Knowing what you do about the culture and period of this time, how does this commandment stand in stark contrast to the people groups surrounding Israel? How does remaining faithful in marriage glorify God? In what ways does this commandment stand in stark contrast to our current culture?

Jen Wilkin says *"Unfaithfulness in marriage corrupts the purity of the union, debasing what God has declared holy. Because all personal sin yields collateral damage, adultery also corrupts and debases the stability of the family unit and the community. Marital dysfunction causes a ripple effect, harming more than just the adulterer."* Do you agree or disagree with the statement from Jen Wilkin? Why or why not? In what ways are our personal sins impacting the others around us, even if they are behind closed doors? What role, if any, does the Church have in being aware of and helping people caught in adultery and/or sexually compromised situations? Why do you answer that way?

Furthermore, Wilkin states *"Lust lies at the root of adultery. Thus, the seventh word speaks to more than just those of us who are married, but to all who are tempted to lust... we would avoid sexual impurity altogether if we dealt with our temptation to lust... So also has lust been culturally normalized and appropriated to suit the ends of those who would profit from it. It saturates our media, selling us a bent version of human flourishing that is based on debasing the good gifts of sex and sexuality."* How does this quote correspond with Jesus' teaching on the Sermon on the Mount and Peter's instructions in 2 Peter? Have you ever been guilty of lust and/or a lingering stare of desire (spend a moment allowing people to internally process this question)? In what way(s) have you tried to justify that your lust is "okay" or "not that bad" (again, this might be best internalized through reflection and prayer)? How do you believe a Christian should act when it comes to, not only sexually explicit material, but also to movies, tv shows, and social media that embrace or promotes a lifestyle of lust, leering, or unholy sexuality? Is this a matter of freedom or of personal choice? Does your engagement in such movies, tv shows, or social media impact those in your family, Life Group, or church? Why or why not? Where might some of your viewing or social activities need to change in order to walk more faithfully?

Peter warns the Church about false teachers and their desire for lust and sexual immorality in 2 Peter 2. What does it mean for these false teachers to have *"eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they seduce the unstable; they are experts in greed—an accursed brood!"*? (Dr. Thomas Constable states "The person who has eyes full of adultery is one who thinks only of sexual immorality when he or she sees (another person). The false teachers sinned without restraint. Furthermore they lured people not firmly committed to Jesus Christ to join them, like a fisherman lures his prey. Richard Baxter considered Peter's use of the Greek word translated enticing (in verse 14), and in verse 18: 'a relic from Peter's fishing days.'") While the passage is about false teachers, all people are susceptible to have eyes full of adultery. In what way(s) are you seeking to be above reproach and not engage this sin? How might a member(s) help you?

## Closing

This week (as individuals) pray, asking God to reveal to you where you might have not been as diligent in guarding your heart and sexuality. Ask if the shows you watch or the media you intake are causing a lingering stare or a lustful intent. If it is revealed that you are experiencing this type of sin, confess and repent, and change your behavior with the Spirit's help. Then ask a trusted friend or pastor to help keep you accountable.