

**Larger Catechism Q. 139. *What are the sins forbidden in the seventh commandment?***

A. The sins forbidden in the seventh commandment, besides the neglect of the duties required, are, adultery, fornication, rape, incest, sodomy, and all unnatural lusts; all unclean imaginations, thoughts, purposes, and affections; all corrupt or filthy communications, or listening thereunto; wanton looks, impudent or light behavior, immodest apparel; prohibiting of lawful, and dispensing with [*administer*] unlawful marriages; allowing, tolerating, keeping of stews [*brothels*], and resorting to them; entangling vows of single life, undue delay of marriage; having more wives or husbands than one at the same time; unjust divorce, or desertion; idleness, gluttony, drunkenness, unchaste company; lascivious [sexual / lewd] songs, books, pictures, dancings, stage plays; and all other provocations to, or acts of uncleanness, either in ourselves or others.

**How to pray for marriages in our congregation:**

1. Thank God for the institution of marriage and the blessings it brings with pure love, friendship, children and prevention from evil.
2. Pray for God to put a hedge about marriages to keep both husband and wife faithful to God's divine institution.
3. Pray for spiritual power to overcome temptations, which, if they be surrendered to, would betray the covenant of marriage.
4. Pray for wisdom to build up your spouse's confidence and trust that you are totally committed to your marriage.
5. Pray for a testimony of godliness through a faithful, humble and servant-like spirit in marriage.
6. Pray against pride, which is most often the devil's avenue of temptation. When one spouse has thoughts of superiority over the other there may be occasion for envy, jealousy and bitterness.
7. Pray for those who are single to be chaste and to find a marriage partner.
8. Pray that you will encourage your children to maintain God's institution of marriage by your faithful example.
9. Pray for those who have fallen into misery of breaking the seventh commandment. They are also under God's judgment and need God's mercy. Pray for repentance and recovery.
10. Pray for the law of God to re-established in our society.

**The Free Presbyterian Church in Cloverdale Prayer Meeting June 15/16  
The Sixth Commandment.**

**Exodus 20:14 "Thou shalt not commit adultery."**

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The duties of marriage are premised on God's creation of one man and one woman. This was the original order and model for all marital relations. It was clear, natural, and designed for the procreation of children. The apostle Paul expounded on this in setting out God's design for marriage. See Ephesians 5:31-33. The model is for a man to "leave and cleave." As it was based on God's creation in the model of Adam and Eve this is God's institution for all humanity.

The seventh commandment was given to maintain God's institution of marriage and protect it from the corruption of the human heart. Everything outside God's plan of marriage between one man and one woman is disobedience to God, and may be called deviant behavior.

Due to the corruption of the human heart, even in God's people, marriage is to be honoured with every effort to promote it and it should be guarded with great care to preserve it. The seventh commandment calls us to recognize our duties and our failures.

**Larger Catechism Q. 138. *What are the duties required in the seventh commandment?***

A. The duties required in the seventh commandment are, **chastity** in body, mind, affections, words, and behavior; and the preservation of it in ourselves and others; **watchfulness** over the eyes and all the senses; **temperance**, keeping of chaste **company**, **modesty** in apparel; marriage by those that have not the gift of continency, conjugal love, and cohabitation; **diligent labour** in our callings; **shunning** all occasions of uncleanness, and **resisting** temptations thereunto.

"**chastity**" = refraining from relations outside of marriage. Note that chastity applies to body and mind as well as words and behavior.

"**watchfulness**" - requires that we avoid scenes and sights of nakedness.

"**temperance**" = self control. An oz. of prevention is better than a pound of cure.

"**chaste company**" - where people do not stoop to lewd talk nor immodesty.

"**modesty**" = restrained behavior. To understand that sin has corrupted our natures and our desires means we must put boundaries around our behavior, words and dress. A woman's body, or a man's body may provoke improper desires and project an image of not caring, or of flaunting. This is not God's will. It is forbidden in this 7th commandment.