

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



**Advanced Bible Correspondence Course**  
**Lesson 41C: The Law of God - Seventh Commandment Continued**

**Q. 109 DOETH GOD FORBID IN THIS COMMANDMENT, ONLY, ADULTERY, AND SUCH LIKE GROSS SINS?**

**ANSWER: SINCE BOTH OUR BODY AND SOULS ARE TEMPLES OF THE HOLY GHOST, HE COMMANDS US TO PRESERVE THEM PURE AND HOLY: THEREFORE HE FORBIDS ALL UNCHASTE ACTIONS, GESTURES, WORDS (A), THOUGHTS, DESIRES (B), AND WHATEVER CAN ENTICE MEN THERETO (C).**

**(A) EPH. 5: 3-4, I COR. 6: 18-19;(B)MAT. 5:27-28;(C) EPH. 5: 18, 1 COR. 15:33**

**All impurity forbidden**

God judges us according to the principles of His holy law and not according to our principles, which are so often effected by sin. What we do not consider to be adultery, God can consider as adultery. Christ said: *"Whosoever looketh on a women to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart."* (Matthew 5:28)

God created us after His image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness (see Lord's Day 3). We lost that image by the fall, but it will be restored in Christ when we are washed in His blood and renewed by the Holy Spirit. Then our soul and body will again become temples of the Holy Ghost. Then He dwells in us, to lead us in the way of God's commandments and to protect us against sin. This also entails a responsibility: we are called to preserve body and soul, in which the Holy Spirit will live as in a temple, pure and holy, so that He also can live in there. Then we are called to refrain from sinful deeds and to strive against sinful lusts in us, praying in faith for the power of the Holy Spirit. However, we must also refrain from and resist all sinful thoughts, words and gestures.

**A lifelong struggle**

For a Christian this can mean a lifelong struggle. It is a difficult struggle, because the temptation from outside is so great, and because our own heart is still inclined to all sins, even after having received grace. Paul, blessed with much grace, still

said: *"I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me"* (Rom.7:21). It is a strife which has defeats and victories. Because of the latter, it is still a glorious strife, for the victory gained in God's strength gives peace and joy in the heart. *"For I delight in the law of God after the inward man"* (Rom.7:22). Defeat does not need to make us downhearted, but it should compel us to continually take refuge in the blood of Christ in order to seek forgiveness and righteousness in Him, and to pray for the grace of the Holy Ghost, who is willing to renew the heart without ceasing.

Holy baptism points out to us that we should not despair, nor continue in sin, because God seals His grace unto us in Holy Baptism and promises His help through the Holy Spirit in whose Name we are also baptized. John writes *"And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous; and He is the propitiation for our sins"* (1 John 2:1).

### **A degenerate culture**

Christians live in a culture that is becoming more and more degenerate. The seventh commandment is being transgressed in so many ways: by tolerating sin, but also by an arousing to sin, for example, in the modern communication media, in movies, music, literature, dress, advertising, and all sorts of recreation. And how many conversations in the workplace and in celebrations are poisoned by filthy and lewd talk and suggestive humour. Paul said: *"But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks"* (Eph. 5: 3-4). The Christian is different and acts differently. He does not take part in the sinful excesses of the world.

### **Resisting and fleeing from sin**

We are called to preserve our body and soul pure and holy as the temples of the Holy Ghost. This must be done passively, by refraining from sin. But this must also be done actively, by resisting sin. We must resist everything that can tempt us to sin. We must keep media and literature which entices us to sin out of our house, And, as much as possible, we must avoid company where God's commandments are transgressed in conversation. For example, this also means that it is not enough when we ourselves do not use obscene words. We must also refrain from secretly listening to others who do use them. Then we ought to admonish the other in love. We also may not entice others to sinful thoughts, lusts, or deeds, through dress, for instance. Our clothing may be elegant, but at the same time, it must be modest. Paul wrote: *"That woman adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety"* (1Timothy 2:9). Shamefacedness means chaste or modest. A woman's attitude should be that she would be ashamed of herself if the way she dresses provokes others to lustful thoughts and desires.

### **The Christian a stranger**

The commandment to resist sin and to refrain from everything that can tempt to sin, means a staying away from divers spheres of cultural and social life to a certain extent. The Christian is a stranger in this world, because he has become a citizen of another country: a heavenly country. That will determine his conduct here on earth. Paul refers to this when he wrote: *“For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ”* (Philippians 3:20). Being strangers and pilgrims on earth does not imply being poor or not developing one’s abilities or talents. On the contrary, Christ has said: *“For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?”* (Matthew 16:26). God is not a stingy God, who does not want to give us much to enjoy. He is a God, Paul wrote to his spiritual son Timothy: *“Who giveth us richly all things to enjoy”* (1Timothy 6:17). However, these gifts must be used in a holy way through the word, which is to be obeyed by faith and by prayer. To Timothy, Paul wrote: *“For every creature of God (this means: everything that has been created) is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanks - giving: for it is sanctified by the Word of God and prayer”* (1Timothy 4:4-5). Not indulging in sinful pleasure can have very positive results: It can give time and opportunities for other meaningful and pleasurable activities – for instance, in recreation, music and literature, which truly can refresh and enrich body and spirit. Thus, a life without television offers many opportunities for which there is otherwise no time. And it offers the family many good opportunities for activities and conversations which stimulate mutual contact between family members.

### **Fading boundaries**

In this context, the great danger must be noted of the use of alcohol. The use of alcohol often causes boundaries to fade, also the boundary of what is good and decent. The writer of Proverbs said: *“Thine eyes shall behold strange woman, and thine heart shall utter perverse things”* (23:33). Paul said in Titus 2:3 that we should *“not be given to much wine”*.

### **To arm oneself against temptation**

We should not only resist temptation, but we must also arm ourselves against it. An excellent example of this, which calls us to imitate, was given us by Job. He did not tolerate anything that could entice him to sin. *“I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?”* (Job 31:1).

### **Love is the fulfilling of the law**

*“Therefore love is the fulfilling of the law”*, wrote Paul (Romans 13:10). To obey all the commandments of God’s holy law is not a burden, but a delight for God’s child. Do we not do everything possible for somebody we truly love? What is more, God’s child experiences that all these commandments are good commandments. Obeying them is for the good of ourselves and of our neighbour. It also produces peace and rest in the heart.

Alas, some people seriously misuse the saying that love is the fulfilling of the law, for instance, by speaking well of a sinful relationship – be it homosexual or heterosexual – by saying that this has resulted from mutual love. Because of this love, they consider this relationship acceptable. They forget, however, that feelings of love which are inconsistent with God’s ordinances and commandments are sinful, no matter how tender and intimate. Ultimately, they seek the fulfillment of their own lusts and wants. Not the fulfillment of God’s holy law.

**Question:**

1. *How can we keep our body and soul, as temples of the Holy Ghost, holy and pure?*

---

---

---

Evaluator: \_\_\_\_\_

Meditation: "Desires"

O THOU THAT HEAREST PRAYER, Teach me to pray.

I confess that in religious exercises

the language of my lips and the feelings of my heart have not always agreed,  
that I have frequently taken carelessly upon my tongue a name never  
pronounced above without reverence and humility,  
that I have often desired things which would have injured me,  
that I have depreciated some of my chief mercies,  
that I have erred both on the side of my hopes and also of my fears,  
that I am unfit to choose for myself, for it is not in me to direct my steps.

Let thy Spirit help my infirmities, for I know not what to pray for as I ought.

Let him produce in me wise desires by which I may ask right things,  
then I shall know thou hearest me.

May I never be importunate for temporal blessing, but always refer them to thy  
fatherly goodness, for thou knowest what I need before I ask;

May I never think I prosper unless my soul prospers, or that I am rich unless rich  
toward thee, or that I am wise unless wise unto salvation.

May I seek first thy kingdom and its righteousness.

May I value things in relation to eternity.

May my spiritual welfare be my chief solicitude.

May I be poor, afflicted, despised and have thy blessing, rather than be successful  
in enterprise, or have more than my heart can wish, or be admired by my  
fellowmen, if thereby these things make me forget thee.

May I regard the world as dreams, lies, vanities, vexation of spirit,  
and desire to depart from it.

And may I see my happiness in thy favour, image, presence and service.

*Taken from: "The Valley of Vision"*