



RESILIENT

God's High Bar of Protection

Matthew 5:27-37



Sunday Prayer

8:30-9:15 a.m.

Room 204



Adultery



Divorce



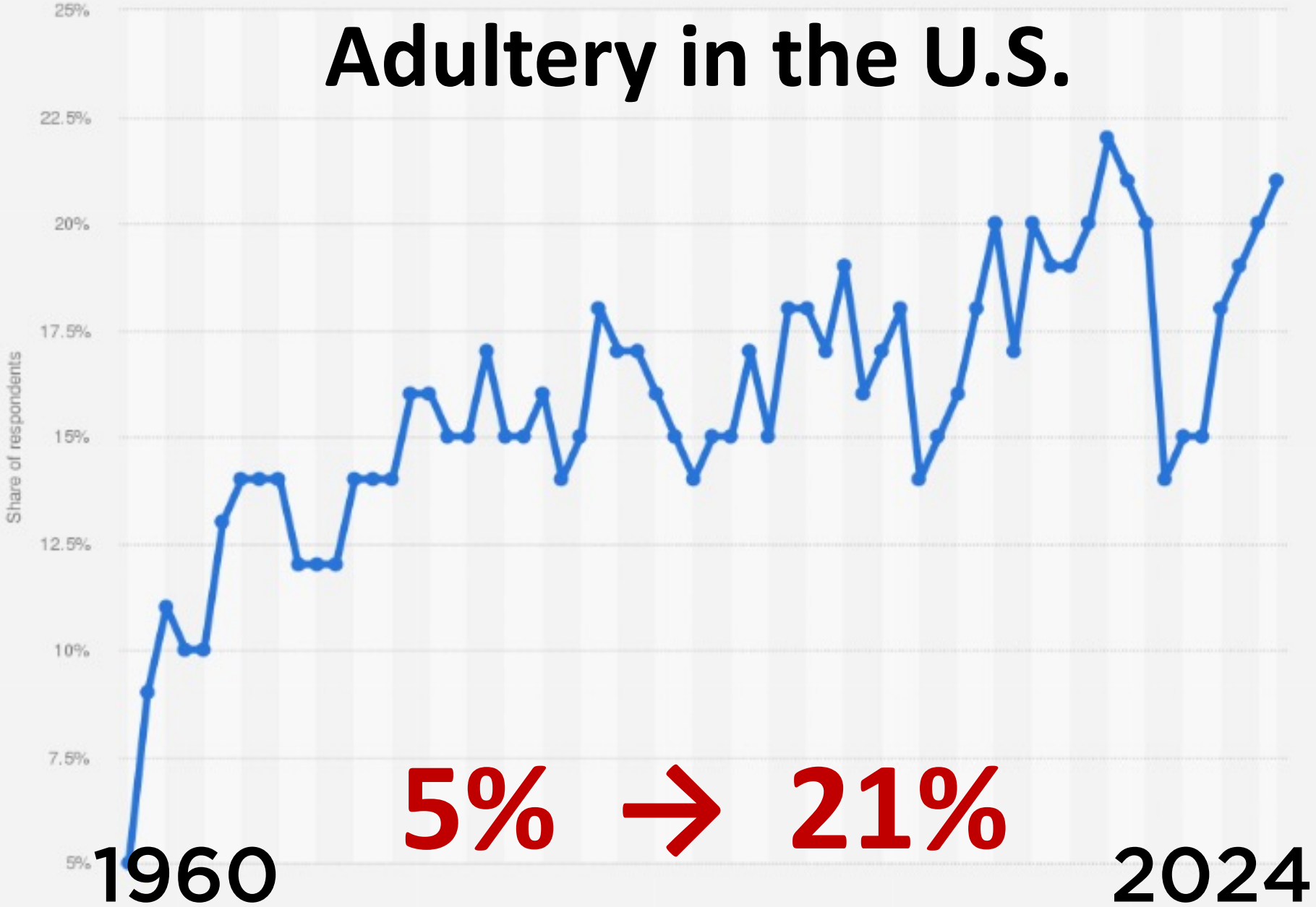
Oaths



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.

Adultery in the U.S.





1 Corinthians 6:9-10

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.



Genesis 2:24

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.



Christian Use of Pornography (2019 - Barna)

Men

89% occasionally

61% weekly

24% daily

51% said they were addicted

Women

51% occasionally

70% in last 12 months



Matthew 5:29-30

If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.



Divorce is Devastating!

- It rips families apart
- Decimates finances
- Guts children emotionally
- And forces people to start their lives over, with a limp



Malachi 2:16 (NLT)

“For I hate divorce!” says the LORD, the God of Israel.
“To divorce your wife is to overwhelm her with cruelty,”
says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies. “So guard your heart;
do not be unfaithful to your wife.”

Three Main Views on Divorce and Remarriage

View	Divorce	Remarriage after Divorce
1. Never Initiate Divorce, Never Remarry	Never legitimate (to initiate)	Never legitimate (as long as one's former spouse is still alive)
2. Sometimes Divorce, Never Remarry	Sometimes legitimate (a) Only for sexual immorality or physical desertion	
3. Sometimes Divorce, Sometimes Remarry	(b) Also for other actions that break the marriage covenant like physical abuse	Legitimate when the divorce is legitimate



Matthew 5:31-32

“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.



Deuteronomy 24:1

When a man takes a wife and marries her, if then she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, and she departs out of his house...

...(and she remarries and re-divorces, then she cannot remarry her first husband. - Paraphrased)



Rabbinical Permission to Divorce One's Wife:

- If she gave him a bad reputation
- If she didn't give him children
- If she let his food spoil
- If she "let herself go" physically
- If she went in public with unkept hair
- If she spoke to another man in the street
- If she spoke disrespectfully of his parents in front of him
- If she spoke loudly at home and the neighbors heard



Matthew 19:3-9

And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful to divorce one’s wife for any cause?”

He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”



Matthew 19:3-9

They said to him, “Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?”

He said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery.”



Matthew 19:3-9

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“sexual Immorality” = *porneia* (Greek)



Divorce and Remarriage

1. (God's default position):

Divorce is never God's preference for any couple.



Divorce and Remarriage

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Divorce is never God's preference for any couple.

2. (Neglect or abuse)

Separation is an option. If the abuser is a professing Christian, then the church should be involved for the purpose of possible church discipline. If an unbeliever, the Christian can separate, but cannot remarry until the abuser divorces or abandons them.



Divorce and Remarriage

3. (Previously married or widowed as an unbeliever, but now a single Christian):

Best to remain single, but free to marry another believer.
(1 Corinthians 7:8-9)



Divorce and Remarriage

3. (Previously married or widowed as an unbeliever, but now a single Christian):

Best to remain single, but free to marry another believer.
(1 Corinthians 7:8-9)

4. (Both Christian):

If one leaves, both should remain unmarried, or else be reconciled.

(1 Corinthians 7:10-11)



Divorce and Remarriage

4. (Both Christian):

If one leaves, both should remain unmarried, or else be reconciled.

3 possibilities for the remaining spouse to be remarried:

- a) The spouse who left dies.
- b) The spouse who left remarries (= adultery).
- c) The spouse who left is deemed by the elders of a church to not be a true Christian.



Divorce and Remarriage

c) The spouse who left is deemed by the elders of a church to not be a true Christian.

(One unbelieving spouse):

Stay together if possible, because you might see them come to faith in Christ. But if the unbeliever still chooses to leave, the believer is free to remarry.

(1 Corinthians 7:15)



“Marriage is not some kind of social contract – something you just ‘do’ for as long as you both shall ‘love.’

Marriage is a sacred covenant between one man and one woman and their God for a lifetime.”



Dennis Rainey

Oaths





Matthew 5:33-37

“Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.”



James 5:12

But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.



Matthew 23:16-22

“Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘If anyone swears by the temple, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.’ You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred? And you say, ‘If anyone swears by the altar, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gift that is on the altar, he is bound by his oath.’



Matthew 23:16-22

You blind men! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift sacred? So whoever swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. And whoever swears by the temple swears by it and by him who dwells in it. And whoever swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by him who sits upon it.



“He who cannot be believed without
[swearing by] God, is already condemned.”

(Josephus, Jewish Wars 2.135; brackets original)



Oaths in the Bible

- God himself confirmed a promise to Abraham with an oath in Hebrews chapter 6.
- Jesus spoke under oath in Matthew 26.
- An angel swore an oath in Revelation 10:5-6
- Paul put himself under oath multiple times, calling God as his witness.
- The Law of Moses prescribed oaths in some circumstances.



“God’s High Bar for Protection”



“God’s High Bar for Protection”

- God’s high bar of equating lust with adultery, is meant to protect spouses from infidelity.
- God’s high bar of making divorce so difficult, is meant to protect the sacred institution of marriage.
- God’s high bar of avoiding frivolous oaths, is meant to protect the integrity of our words.



Question of the Week

RESILIENT



Question of the Week

Complete this verse from Matthew 19:9.

“What therefore God has joined together, _____.”









“I love you, and the only picture I can think of that will describe my love for you, is the pure love of a husband for his wife.”



He still says,
I love you!
He still says,
*I offer you
my life. Will
you be my
bride?*

