



Dear brethren,

the Sixth Commandment is: *You shall not commit adultery!* And our Lord Jesus teaches us that to divorce *is* to commit adultery - except for those whose marriage has already been broken, that what breaks a marriage is not any and all shortcomings with regards to the marriage, but the actual and outright abandonment of it: *You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.'* He says, *But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.*

Matthew 5:27, 32

His demand for faithfulness in marriage reflects Gods' own faithfulness to His Word, and to those to whom He binds Himself by His promise. With His promise of salvation in Baptism He binds Himself to His Christians; and His promise is sacred, so that He neither can nor will break it.

This is what His ordinance of marriage as a lifelong union reflects: that God Himself is faithful and will not abandon His promise, not even when His Christians sin against Him, as we all do, and often. And how could He? After all, His salvation *is* the full forgiveness for our sin; how could our shortcomings and sins cancel *that* out?

The history of ancient Israel teaches us this, also. God chose Israel as His people, not because of its own goodness, but out of His own goodness and mercy, and gave Israel His promise that His mercy love would be upon His people, with His blessing.

And Him being faithful to His promise was *not* contingent upon perfect obedience to His Word and will on the part of the people; He dwelt in the midst of the people, with His glory, in the Temple for the express purpose of granting *forgiveness* when they failed.

It was not because of common sins and shortcomings with regards to His Law that God abandoned Israel and gave her over into the hands of her enemies, but rather because the people abandoned His very covenant of mercy, when they ceased to live as His people, neither seeking to observing His Law nor repenting when they fell short. They gave themselves over to the ways of the heathens, and to their gods; and so they not only *sinned against* His covenant, but *broke* it, so that it was no longer in place, similarly to how adultery is not only sin, but breaks a marriage. For their idolatry was nothing less than religious adultery: *"They broke my covenant though I was a husband to them!" says the Lord.*

Jeremiah 31:34

Marriage is an imagery of the covenant of salvation God makes with us in our Baptism. Only when he ceases to be a Christian and places himself outside of the covenant - that is: when he ceases to live with God in His Word and worship, and to repent of his sins and seek to overcome them, and lives in instead in disobedience and disregard for the Word of God - only then can a Christian sinner lose his salvation. God is faithful to His promise of salvation; His covenant is sacred also - and in particular! - to Himself.

Sincerely
Jais H. Tinglund

Services of penitence and prayer at Grace Friday nights at 7 pm. in response to political and cultural chaos at home and abroad, war, and other threats to the peace of the world, the freedom of the Church of Christ, and the general well-being of human beings everywhere.

Free Will Offering at Grace on Sunday, July 30, in favour of the Community Outreach Fund.

Memorial Service for Ken Fink at Grace on Saturday, August 5, 2 pm.

Pastor Tinglund shall be gone most of Tuesday, August 15, for a Circuit Pastors' Meeting. Messages can be left at cell phone 605-228-9216.

Grace's 75th Anniversary will be celebrated on Saturday, August 19, at 11 am. with a worship service and a luncheon, sponsored by Thrivent, followed by a programme with music and memories. Members are asked to prepare salads and/or deserts, and also to consider whether they have stories to share from the life of the congregation. If you do not voluntarily volunteer to share some stories, you might be approached and emphatically encouraged to!

Pastor Tinglund shall be gone for a District Circuit Visitors' Meeting Tuesday, August 22, through Wednesday, August 23. Messages can be left at cell phone 605-228-9216. Should a need for immediate Pastoral assistance arise, feel free to call Pastor Korb of Worland at 307-388-4044.

Bring your receipts from Lynn's to Church. For every bundle of receipts for purchases of \$ 10,000 we collect, Lynn's will give us \$ 100 for the LMWL at Grace. Last year we received \$ 700. At this time we have received four first three cheques this year, we are awaiting a fourth, and more than halfway into gathering enough receipts for yet another.

LWML Meeting at Grace Monday, August 28, at 7 pm.

This is our faith - *from the Lutheran Confessions*

We believe, teach, and confess also that notwithstanding the fact that many weaknesses and defects cling to the true believers and truly regenerate, even to the grave, still they must not on that account doubt either their righteousness, which has been accounted to them by faith, or the salvation of their souls, but must regard it as certain that for Christ's sake, according to the promise and immovable Word of the holy Gospel, they have a gracious God.

Formula Concord, the Epitome

Just so we do not forget

What does God say about all these Commandments?

He says "I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments" (Exodus 20:5-6)

What does this mean?

God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands.

Of the Small Catechism

Birthdays in August

- as known to the editor

August 16:

Matthew Werbelow

August 28:

Victor Werbelow

Anniversaries in August

- as known to the editor

August 2:

Terry and Sandy Cole

Ray & LeAnn Frazier

August 21:

Dean and Mary Marchant

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Grace website:

<http://gracegreybull.ctshost.org>

Zion website:

<http://zionemblem.ctshost.org>

Regular office hours at Grace:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday,
Noon -1 pm.

Regular Worship Hours**April-September:**Grace:

Penitence & Prayer Fridays, 7 pm.

Sundays at 10:30 am.

Bible Study at 11:45 am.

Zion:

Sundays at 8 am.

Bible Study at 9:15 am.

October-March:Grace:

Penitence & Prayer Fridays, 7 pm.

Sundays at 8 am.

Bible Study at 9:15 am.

Zion:

Sundays at 10:30 am.

Bible Study at 11:45 am.

LWML meet at Grace at 7 pm. on the first Monday of February, March, April, November, and December, and also on the **last** Monday of August - unless advertised otherwise.