

The Seventh



TEN

A LOOK AT GOD'S
UNWAVERING COMMANDS

Exodus 20:14 & Matthew 5:27-28

The Sixth

God wants us to love one another, and we can't love one another if we're actively breaking trust in our relationships.

God cares about your faithfulness.

TEN

‘Letter from Jim’

“I believe that men & women can part for many reasons, including lack of appreciation.”

“One day you will meet someone else you could’ve married. Remember then, this is the person God gave you to love standing before you today.”

‘Letter from Jim’

“As I sat on the lawn looking down the street I saw that we all depend on each other. I saw that although I thought my sins could be secret, that they could be no more secret than an earthquake. All these houses & all these families, my infidelity, will somehow shake them.”

“75 percent felt betrayed by their cheating parent, 80 percent said it affected their attitude toward love & relationships, and 70 percent said they believe it impacted their ability to trust others.”

Matthew 5:27-28

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’²⁸ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

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The Billy Graham Rule

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The Billy Graham Rule

“A valuable lesson we all can learn from this tragic situation: follow the @BillyGraham rule. If you are married, never be alone with someone of the opposite sex who isn't your spouse. Never!”

The Billy Graham Rule

“This rule, in its most pristine form, renders male-female friendships impossible. However unintentionally, it communicates to women that they’re fundamentally dangerous. And it bars men from meaningful mentorship or pastoral care of women & vice-versa.”

The Billy Graham Rule

“I’d submit that the Billy Graham Rule is less like buckling a seatbelt & more akin to refusing to share the road with anyone else (and then claiming that’s the only truly safe way to drive).”

“How do men & women cultivate self-control, trustworthiness, and transparency & take up practices that nudge them toward healthy relationships & boundaries?”

The Sixth

“Between legalism & license lies the messier space of wisdom & cultivation of virtue. It's in that space where we - as individuals & in relationships - flourish. People need meaningful relationships with members of the opposite sex, and they need them to be safe, honoring, and full of integrity.”

TEN

The Sixth

15 principles of governing a marriage

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15 principles of governing a marriage

1. We're careful about staying close to each other, talking a lot, intentionally sharing how we're doing & what's happening in our hearts.

15 principles of governing a marriage

2. We have no secrets.

15 principles of governing a marriage

3. We know each others passwords.

15 principles of governing a marriage

4. We rarely hang out with opposite-sex friends alone at night & never at a house or hotel.

15 principles of governing a marriage

5. We have close friends of the opposite sex, but no one as close as our spouse.

15 principles of governing a marriage

6. We don't tell someone of the opposite sex something we haven't told our spouse.

15 principles of governing a marriage

7. He knows every time I hang out with someone of the opposite sex & vice-versa.

15 principles of governing a marriage

8. If we hang out with someone of the opposite sex, our spouse is always invited.

15 principles of governing a marriage

9. Those we hang out with are mutual friends.

15 principles of governing a marriage

10. If ever there's even the faintest attraction to someone - even distant potential weirdness - we tell our spouse that day.

15 principles of governing a marriage

11. We never complain about our spouse to a friend of the opposite sex.

15 principles of governing a marriage

12. We try to be very aware of the emotional & marital health of people we hang with.

15 principles of governing a marriage

13. If we're alone with a member of the opposite sex, we never discuss sex, or our sex life or say anyone or anything is 'sexy'.

15 principles of governing a marriage

14. We pray for our marriage. We have close friends, a small group, accountability, spiritual directors & we need God's constant mercy.

15 principles of governing a marriage

15. If a situation arises where we need to make some exception to these rules, we flex.

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