

SPIRITUAL TASK – THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT (Exodus 20)

by the Rev. David Roth at the New Church of Boulder Valley

Story The Sixth Commandment demands that we do not commit adultery.

Meaning Keeping this commandment requires that we look deeper than just our outward actions. Yes, the outer act of adultery in its various degrees, and realizing obscene desires and having lustful thoughts are clearly to be shunned. But to get to the root of the problem, we have to look at spiritual adultery. Adultery means to “make different.” We commit spiritual adultery when we falsify the teachings and good things from the Word, and when we create an infernal marriage of a false idea with a negative feeling—this takes us more and more into the company of evil spirits and eventually may lead to actual physical acts of adultery.

Task This week keep asking yourself, in reference to your ideas and thoughts, “Is this what the Lord teaches?” And in reference to your behavior, “Is this what the Lord would do?” Pay special attention to feelings and thoughts that have an adulterous quality.