

LUST
MATTHEW 5:27-30
9-3-23

I. PHARISEES TEACHING OF THE LAW

Matthew 5:27 - "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.'"

- 1. Focused on the outward act of adultery only.**

II. JESUS TEACHING ON THE LAW

Matthew 5:28 - "But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

- 1. Adultery is more than a physical act.**
- 2. Born out of lustful intent.**

III. WHAT DO WE DO?

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. ³⁰ 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."

- 1. Recognize this is not a body problem but a SOURCE problem.**

- ~ Physical solutions to spiritual problems will never work.
- ~ Source = our heart
- ~ We need Jesus to change our hearts.

- 2. Recognize this is not a body problem but a SELF-CONTROL problem.**

- ~ Warren Wiersbe - *"We get victory by purifying the heart and then disciplining our actions."*
- ~ Self-control is a fruit of the Holy Spirit; He must produce it – Gal 5:22-23
- ~ We must see sin as extreme and have self-control to remove its motivators.

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did you think about the message this week? What stood out to you or convicted your heart?
2. What tools does God give us to help us in our fight against sin and lust in this life?
3. How has our culture's lax view of sex and lust impacted the church and its members?
4. Why would it be dangerous for a Christians to not see their sin as extreme as Jesus does? What does this communicate about their hearts?
5. How can we start seeing our sin as extreme as God does?
6. What does Jesus' strong vocabulary around lust (gouging eyes, and amputation) teach us about the severity of Hell?
7. In Job 31:1, Job says, "I have made a covenant with my eyes; how then can I look upon a virgin" ...What do you think he means by making a covenant with his eyes? How can we do this today? Why would this be an important thing for Job and us to do?
8. As we think about the next generation, how do we help them succeed in their fight against lust in an ever-sexualized culture?
9. What is the difference in fighting lust on our own versus fighting it with the power of the Gospel? What makes one more successful than the other?

*****For these next questions it may be a good idea to break your group into two smaller groups, one for men and one for women*****

1. What are some areas where your gender (Male or Female) might struggle with lust?
2. How might you be able to help other people with their struggle with lust? How can others in the church help you?
3. Because we live in a world that encourages lusting but not acting on it, how do we protect ourselves?
4. Has the Gospel set you free in the past from a pattern of lust/adultery? What is your story?
5. How can this group be an encouragement to you as you combat lustful desires?

PRAY – Take some time and pray for one another as a group of men or women. Pray that God would shape your hearts in the area of lust. Pray that God would use your community group to minister to one another.