

Real Christianity: The Sermon on the Mount

#13: The Sin of Lust

Matthew 5:27-28

"You have heard the commandment that says, 'You must not commit adultery.' But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart." (Matt 5:27-28 NLT)

Sinful lust is probably the most destructive and the most tempting sin for men.

Do you see the great problem here? The most tempting sin for men, is also the most destructive.

"Jesus DRASTICALLY EXPANDED THE DEFINITION OF ADULTERY. If the only danger of adultery was physically having sex with someone who is not our spouse, this would be a lot harder sin to commit. But Jesus said you can commit this wicked, marriage-wrecking sin with merely your EYES, not your sexual organs. Mental adultery, which Jesus makes equal to physical adultery, can happen just by seeing someone, not even touching or knowing them. Mental adultery is simply allowing someone who is not your spouse to give you sexual thoughts and desires."

For most men, sexual purity will be the hardest moral battle in their life.

"The greatest demonic war ever waged against the sons of God is happening right now."

Being tough on lust

"So if your eye—even your good eye—causes you to lust, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell." (Matt 5:29 NLT) The hellish destruction that lust can cause is so serious, that Jesus is encouraging us to do everything possible to stay away from this sin.

"I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery" (Matt 5:32 NIV). A wife has God's permission to divorce her husband if he is sexually unfaithful to her, which includes committing mental adultery with pornography.

Speaking metaphorically of women who entice men into sexual immorality, Solomon wrote: **"She has been the ruin of many. Many men have been her victims."** (Prov 7:26 NLT). Throughout all of history, lust has been the greatest and most destructive weapon Satan has had against men.

There is nowhere the Devil is better disguised than in a naked woman who is not your wife. They can look so enticing, but we have to remember they are demonic. Throughout my book I repeatedly call them this: "demon-possessed destroyers of your wife and life."

Mercy about lust

"A recent study of college students found that young men thought of sex about 20 times *per day*. In fact, they thought of sex more often than food. In the same study, women were found to think a lot more about food than sex."

Ladies imagine that it was sin to ever satisfy your need for food unless your husband was eating with you.

3,000 years ago Solomon wrote of women who are sexual predators of men: **"now in the street, now in the market, at every corner she lurks."** (Prov 7:12). He was trying to help his son understand how the temptation for sexual sin is everywhere. Well what would Solomon think about today?

The most destructive sin has become exponentially easier in your life time.

I have one more thing to say about mercy for the sin of lust. Men, can you believe that we are already completely forgiven for it all.

Practical Applications

1) Men, do everything you can to protect yourself from sexual sin.

"We are at war, but are we warriors?"

What does running from wicked women look like?

- Be careful what you watch on TV.
- Get some software protection on all your internet devices. Covenant Eyes.
- Be in a Barnabas Group.
- Pursue Renew Ministry.

Christian counselor: "Those who keep going back to pornography are self-medicating deep emotional wounds to ease their pain. . . Most of the time, he is unaware of this process because it takes place in his subconscious mind."

Discussion ?'s

- 1) Why was Jesus so strong about lust, saying to even gouge out your eye to avoid it?
- 2) Why are men so susceptible to lust?
- 3) What are things that make the sin of lust so much more tempting today?
- 4) Pastor Kurt suggested four practical steps to help protect men from lust. What are the challenges of practicing these?
- 5) What was most meaningful to you about today's message?