Crossroads International Church Dr. Rick Griffith

21 February 2016 Message 6 of 20

NLT 40 Minutes

**Straight Talk on Lust**

Title

***Matthew 5:27-30***

**Topic:** Lust

**Subject:** How can you guard yourself from sexual sin?

**Complement:** Commit and watch.

**Purpose:** The listeners will guard themselves from the lust that causes adultery.

**Meditation:** Job 33:1

**Reading:** Matthew 5:27-30

**Song:** “Purify My Heart”

# Introduction

### Interest: [Sexual immorality is rampant today.]

#### The year was 1967, and a nine-year-old boy rummaged around in his stepfather's desk with his two friends. To their surprise, several *Playboy* magazines lay in the top drawer. Having never seen such things before, they boys looked with curiosity. However, when they went back a few days later, they found the drawer locked. In fact, I had a difficult time getting any other pornography.

1967

• Playboy

##### *Playboy* was also unavailable at the corner market—out of sight behind the counter and available for sale only to adults.

TV Shows

##### At that time, no explicit images appeared in movie theatres or TV, nor was there such a thing as home entertainment as videos, CDs, and DVDs were not yet invented.

#### Not so today! Sexually explicit images are readily available everywhere: internet porn, DVDs, even the present *Deadpool* movie broke all box-office records last week for an R-rated film filled with sexually explicit images.

Deadpool

#### The result is a society that devalues sex in marriage.

Marriage Rings

##### Marriage itself has been redefined as a relationship where two people love each other, despite being of the same gender.

##### Are we more sexually fulfilled today? To the contrary, watching explicit images leaves people lonely and unfulfilled.

### Need: How are you doing in this area? Are you winning your battle against sexual immorality—or are you losing the battle?

Three People

#### In general, in our fallen state…

Different Temptation

##### Women seek sex for relationships.

##### Men seek relationships for sex.

#### Singles must win against fornication.

Facebook

##### This week the *Sacramento Bee* announced that single adults in California now outnumber married adults. Why? People have given up on marriage.

##### As a single, are you keeping yourself pure until marriage?

#### Those married must win against adultery.

Adultery Heart

##### Having the advantage of sex in marriage obviously does not lead to people sexual purity. Many men who visit prostitutes are married men!

##### A huge number of men commit adultery—from 20% to 65% I’ve read.

##### As a married person, are you guarding the purity of your marriage?

### Subject: How can you guard yourself from sexual sin?

Subject

### Background: The listeners to Jesus in his Sermon on the Mount were primarily married, but what Jesus said about sexual sin actually relates to all of us.

Heart Issue

#### By the time we get to today’s text, Jesus has just begun his specific attacks on the Pharisees. He first spoke about relational harmony in verses 21-26.

#### Now, after telling us how to get along with others, he turns to even the absolutely most personal issue for each of us—the most important relationship in our lives with our spouse.

Moses &
Tablets

### Preview: Today we’ll see two ways Jesus said you should guard yourself from sexual sin.

Two Ways

### Text: Matthew 5:27-30 has but four verses, yet they are packed with profound meaning.

27-30
(4 slides)

Subject

(What’s the first way to guard from sexual sin?)

# I. Commit to sexual purity (5:27).

MP

 [Promise *your body* to God for sex only within marriage.]

## Jesus’ hearers knew the seventh commandment (5:27a).

### What is adultery (5:28a)?

Woman Crying

#### Adultery is voluntary sexual intercourse with a married person who is not one’s spouse. God has our greatest joy in mind, so he calls adultery sin.

#### Technically, two single people cannot commit adultery, as adultery is possible only if one person is married. Sex between singles is also sin but it is called fornication.

### Why do people commit adultery?

Shirt

#### One 1631 edition of the Bible commands adultery. Seriously! [explain slide].

• Quote

Bible

#### Adultery is seen as exciting and glamorous now.

• Affair

List Hands Adultery

##### Look at our change of vocabulary. Instead of calling it the horror that it is, we call adultery an “affair” (sounds like “flair”), a “fling” (sounds like “swing”), or any other title that obscures the fact that adultery takes a hammer to the vows that provide security in marriage.

Broken Heart

• Fling

##### One website even exists to aid people in adultery.

Website

##### James Bond 007 epitomizes the so-called glamour of adultery. Interesting, isn’t, that his number is the “perfect number 7” in Scripture—which is also the 7th of the Ten Commandments?

James Bond 007

## God prohibited adultery in this command (5:27b).

### Which of the Ten Commandments was the prohibition of adultery (5:27)?

Shalt Commit

#### This was the seventh commandment. Speaking of murder just before this—the sixth commandment—now he just goes to the next one relating to marriage.

Ten
Tablets

#### In reality, adultery breaks *all* of the Ten Commandments:

##### Adultery has a god called sex before the true God.

##### Adultery worships the image of unlawful sex.

##### Adultery dishonors God’s name.

##### Adultery typically lasts beyond a week and thus goes over a Sabbath to dishonor that day.

##### Adultery certainly does not honor one’s parents.

##### Adultery kills marriage and leads to literal murder.

Title

Watching World

##### Adultery is explicitly forbidden in commandment 7.

##### Adultery steals from another person.

##### Adultery always has lying to cover it.

##### Adultery obviously covets someone else’s wife!

### Will you pledge right now to keep sex within marriage?

Commit?

#### One of the most important decisions I have ever made was to keep sex within marriage. By God’s grace, just making that vow at age 19 enabled me to keep it until I married just before age 26 and has kept me for 32 years of marriage now.

#### The problem with many of us is that we never hit the target because we never vow to aim at it.

Target

#### As someone has said, “The grass isn’t greener on the other side. It’s greener where you water it.”

Greener Grass

#### This includes word to you singles too: Alistair Begg noted, “The world is watching to see whether Christians really are different or not.”

Commit?

#### Whether single or married, will you commit yourself to purity *right now*?

Subj.

(So how else can you guard yourself from sexual sin? The Jews had revered the Ten Commandments for a millennium and a half. No one thought of any other code higher than these Ten Laws. Imagine their shock when Jesus started saying that what he had to say was even *more important!*)

MPI

High Code

# II. Guard yourself from lust (5:28-30).

MPII

[Protect *your mind* from impurity.]

## Lust is adultery of the heart (5:28).

LUST

### Verse 28 is the heart of these four verses.

28

#### Instead of focusing on the *outward sin of adultery*, Jesus shows us that our basic problem is *our mind*.

Ancient Lust

#### By showing us how to defeat lust, Christ helps us get to the root of sexual sin.

### What is lust (5:28a)?

What is lust?

#### God designed us with legitimate desires for food, water, and even sex.

• unlawful

#### However, lust is a wrongful desire for what God forbids.

#### Specifically, it refers to imagining sex with someone other than your spouse.

• imagining

### What does it mean that a man has “already committed adultery with her in his heart” (5:28b)?

Man at computer

#### Here we must distinguish between temptation and sin. To be tempted to lust is not sin. The tense here does not refer a passing glance that is not pursued.

#### However, to actually lust is indeed sin, because it means that a man hasn’t avoided this sin of the heart and imagination. The present tense participle here “refers to one who continues to look rather than just casting a passing glance” (Blomberg, 109).

#### Worse yet, the actual *act* of adultery is worse than the *thought* of adultery.

### Is lust *just as bad* as adultery (5:28)?

Man & Two Women

#### Jesus calls both lust and adultery sin.

#### But are all sins the same magnitude? All sins displease God, but not all sins have equal consequences. Adultery destroys marriage because it violates the marriage vow.

Eye & Hand

#### Yet, in a real sense, lust also violates the marriage vow for a man to commit himself and devote himself only to his wife—but the result of lust certainly is not as severe as the result of adultery.

 Face palm

## Guard yourself from lust (5:29-30).

Guard Yourself

### Guard your eyes from lust (5:29).

Guard Your Eyes

#### What is significant about Jesus picking the eye and hand (5:29-30)? Why not the ear and leg?

##### The eye is the gateway to the imagination. If you watch what you see, you will watch what you think!

29-30
(2 slides)

##### What the eye sees affects what the hand does later. Therefore, the hand is particularly important. Our hands can be used for either good or evil purposes.

#### Did Jesus really and literally command us to gouge out our eye and cut off our hand (5:29-30)?

##### Hmmm, I wonder why we ask if he really meant what he said! Surely he could be exaggerating to make his point!

##### But what is that point? He tells us explicitly: If your eye or hand so tempt you to follow your lustful passions instead of trusting Christ to help you get rid of them, you are not trusting Christ for salvation.

##### Indeed, you don’t even *want* to be saved if you want to fulfill your lustful passions instead of entrusting yourself to Christ, so the result is to enter hell with two eyes and two hands. How tragic!

Time to Turn

#### What is even better than gouging out your eye?

Two Eyes

##### Realize that your eye is the gateway to your mind.

XXX Comp

##### Remove your sources of temptation!

FB Adultery

##### Safeguard your computer and mobile phone!

Mobile PH

##### Train your sight not to see things that stimulate lust.

Porn Eye

### Guard your hands from lust (5:30).

Guard your hand

#### Would a one eyed and one-handed person be guaranteed not to sin?

30

##### Obviously not—you can still lust with the left eye and still touch someone inappropriately with the left hand.

##### Both the right eye and right hand were viewed as more valuable in antiquity, as most people then (as now) were right-handed. *So the point is that we must be willing to take severe measures to protect ourselves from sin.*

#### What is even better than cutting off your hand?

Better than Hand?

##### Never take off your wedding ring in public. The sign of marriage is on our hand!

Wedding Ring

##### Replace your sources of temptation with sources of purity!

Bible
Ps 119

##### Avoid touching anything or anyone that encourages lust. Hug right—but not the awkward hug!

Hugs
(2 slides)

Subject

(So how can you guard yourself from sexual sin?)

# Conclusion

### Commit and watch (MI).

MI

### How can you guard yourself from sexual sin?

#### Commit to sexual purity (5:27). If you first *don’t look*, then you *won’t act.*

MPI

MPII

#### Guard yourself from lust (5:28-30).

### Ladies: How can *you* help us men?

How?

#### Don’t tempt us by what you wear!

Potiphar

Swimsuit

#### Don’t tempt us by what you do (Potiphar’s wife).

### Men: How can *you* guard *yourself* from sexual sin?

How?

#### Stop making excuses.

Stop!

#### Flee sexual immorality (1 Cor. 6:18).

Job 31:1

Flee!

#### Covenant with your eyes not to lust (Job 31:1).

#### Install Covenant Eyes software for you and your family to be accountable.

Cov. Eyes
(4 slides)

#### Read “Your Brain on Porn” at covenanteyes.com and be wary of films (Pluggedin).

Read/film
(2 slides)

# Preliminary Questions

**Verses Questions**

# Context: What did the author record just prior to this passage?

### By the time we get to today’s text, Jesus has just begun his specific attacks on the Pharisees. He first spoke about relational harmony in verses 21-26.

### Now, after telling us how to get along with others, he turns to even the absolutely most personal issue for each of us—the most important relationship in our lives with our spouse.

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

### Instead of focusing on the outward sin of adultery, Jesus shows us that our basic problem is in the mind.

### By showing us how to defeat lust, Christ helps us get to the root of sexual sin.

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

### The Jews had revered the Ten Commandments for a millennium and a half. No one thought of any other code higher than these Ten Laws.

### Imagine their shock when Jesus started saying that what he had to say was even *more important!*

# Questions

### What is adultery (5:28a)?

#### Adultery is voluntary sexual intercourse with a married person who is not one’s spouse. God has our greatest joy in mind, so he calls adultery sin.

#### Technically, two single people cannot commit adultery, as adultery is possible only if one person is married. Sex between singles is also sin but it is called fornication.

### What types of adultery are in Scripture? “There are three types of adultery spoken of in the Bible:[[1]](#footnote-1)

#### SEXUAL ADULTERY—Conjugal infidelity. An adulterer was a man who had sexual intercourse with a woman he was not [married](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/marriage.html) to, either a [married woman](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/wife.html) or one who was engaged to be married. A woman who did the same thing was an adulteress.

##### Adultery is [fornication](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/fornication.html). The Bible regards adultery as a great [sin](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/sin.html) and a great social wrong.

##### It has been inferred from [John 8:1-11](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/john8.html) that this [sin](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/sin.html) became very common during the age preceding the destruction of [Jerusalem](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/jerusalem.html).

##### Author: Matthew G. Easton

#### ADULTERY WITHOUT SEXUAL INTERCOURSE—The Bible speaks of “wanton [eyes](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/eye.html)” ([Isa. 3:16](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/isa3.html#16)), “[eyes](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/eye.html) full of [adultery](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/adultery.html)” ([2 Pet. 2:14](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/2pet2.html#14)), and “the [lust](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/lust.html) of the eyes” ([1 John 2:16](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/1john2.html#16)).

##### Jesus Christ warned, “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to [lust](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/lust.html) after her has committed [adultery](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/adultery.html) already with her in his heart.”

##### As with the breaking of any of the [Ten Commandments](http://www.christiananswers.net/q-eden/commandments.html), those who are not [washed](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/washing.html) in the [blood](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/blood.html) of [Jesus Christ](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/gospel.html) will have to pay the [penalty](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/judgmentthefinal.html). They will [not enter](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/eternaldeath.html) the [Kingdom of God](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/kingdomofgod.html).

##### [Punishment](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/punishment.html) for transgression of this [Commandment](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/commandmentstheten.html) is the death [penalty](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/punishment.html).

##### Author: Ray Comfort.

#### SPIRITUAL ADULTERY—

##### [Idolatry](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/idolatry.html), [covetousness](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/covetousness.html), and apostasy are spoken of as spiritual adultery ([Jer. 3:6](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/jer3.html#6), [8-9](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/jer3.html#8); [Ezek. 16:32](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/ezek16.html#32); [Hos. 1:2-3](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/hosea1.html#2); [Rev. 2:22](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/rev2.html#22)). An apostate [church](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/church.html) is an adulteress ([Isa. 1:21](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/isa1.html#21); [Ezek. 23:4](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/ezek23.html#4), [7](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/ezek23.html#7), [37](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/ezek23.html#37)), and the [Jews](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/jew.html) are described “an adulterous generation” ([Matt. 12:39](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/mat12.html#39)) (compare [Rev. 12](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/rev12.html)).

##### Author: Matthew G. Easton

### Which of the Ten Commandments was the prohibition of adultery (5:27)?

#### This was the seventh commandment.

#### However, adultery actually breaks *all* of the Ten Commandments:

##### Adultery has a god called sex before the true God.

##### Adultery worships the image of unlawful sex.

##### Adultery dishonors God’s name.

##### Adultery typically lasts beyond a week and thus goes over a Sabbath to dishonor that day.

##### Adultery certainly does not honor one’s parents.

##### Adultery kills marriage and leads to literal murder.

##### Adultery is explicitly forbidden in commandment 7.

##### Adultery steals from another person.

##### Adultery always has lying to cover it.

##### Adultery obviously covets someone else’s wife!

### On which table was the prohibition of adultery (5:27b)?

#### The first table addressed our vertical relationship with God in the first four commandments.

#### The prohibition of adultery was on the second table relating to our relationship with others.

### What is lust (5:28a)?

#### God designed us with legitimate desires for food, water, and even sex.

#### However, lust is an unlawful desire for what God forbids.

#### Specifically, it refers to imagining sex with someone other than one’s spouse.

#### D. A. Carson thinks the phrase should be translated “so as to get her to lust” (“Matthew,” in *EBC*, 8:151, 152 n. 28). I could not find any translations that support this, though.

### What does it mean that a man has “already committed adultery with her in his heart” (5:28b)?

#### Here we must distinguish between temptation and sin. To be tempted to lust is not sin. The tense here does not refer a passing glance that is not pursued.

#### However, to actually lust is indeed sin, because it means that a man hasn’t avoided this sin of the heart and imagination. The present tense participle here “refers to one who continues to look rather than just casting a passing glance” (Blomberg, 109).

#### Worse yet, the actual *act* of adultery is worse than the *thought* of adultery.

### Is lust *just as bad* as adultery (5:28)?

#### Jesus calls both lust and adultery sin.

#### But are all sins the same magnitude? All sins displease God, but not all sins have equal consequences. Adultery destroys marriage because it violates the marriage vow.

#### Yet, in a real sense, lust also violates the marriage vow for a man to commit himself and devote himself only to his wife—but the result of lust certainly is not as severe as the result of adultery.

### What is significant about Jesus picking the eye and hand (5:29-30)? Why not the ear and leg?

#### The eye is the gateway to the imagination. If you watch what you see, you will watch what you think!

#### D. A. Carson thinks the eye is a euphemism for the male sexual organ (“Matthew,” in *EBC*, 8:151). This seems highly unlikely, as Jesus is trying to help us address root causes, which starts with the eye.

#### What the eye sees affects what the hand does later. Therefore, the hand is particularly important. Our hands can be used for either good or evil purposes.

### Did Jesus really and literally command us to gouge out our eye and cut off our hand (5:29-30)?

#### Hmmm, I wonder why we ask if he really meant what he said! Surely he could be exaggerating to make his point!

#### But what is that point? He tells us explicitly: If your eye or hand so tempt you to follow your lustful passions instead of trusting Christ to help you get rid of them, you are not trusting Christ for salvation.

#### Indeed, you don’t even *want* to be saved if you want to fulfill your lustful passions instead of entrusting yourself to Christ, so the result is to enter hell with two eyes and two hands. How tragic!

### Would a one eyed and one-handed person be guaranteed not to sin?

#### Obviously not—you can still lust with the left eye and still touch someone inappropriately with the left hand.

#### Both the right eye and right hand were viewed as more valuable in antiquity, as most people then (as now) were right-handed. *So the point is that we must be willing to take severe measures to protect ourselves from sin.*

### How does the passage relate differently to men and women? In general, in our fallen state…

#### Women seek sex for relationships.

#### Men seek relationships for sex.

### What are modern parallels to the eye and hand removals?

#### Remove your sources of temptation!

#### Safeguard your computer and mobile phone!

# Tentative Subject/Complement Statements

Text

# Possible Illustrations

### rain app $1.48

### Prov 5

### Missionary t-shirts

# Possible Applications

### Train your computer to be pure

### Link your online searches to an accountability partner.

#### Susan and I have our Safari searches linked.

#### Those struggling with porn make me an accountability partner on Covenant Eyes or XXXChurch.com.

# Life of Christ Outline of Christ's Authority to Interpret the Law

**§§ 54-56**

# *Exegetical Idea*: In response to the crowds' interest in the righteousness necessary for kingdom entrance, Christ's Sermon on the Mount shows the holiness of God by teaching the characteristics of the kingdom's subjects, His superiority over the Law, and instruction to those entering the kingdom in order to discredit Pharisaic righteousness and to offer Himself as the sole basis for kingdom entrance (Matt 5:1–7:29; Luke 6:17-42).

# *Exegetical Idea*: The traits of those who trust Christ as King in the Sermon on the Mount are holiness and trust in Christ’s authority over the Law and oral tradition (Matt 5:1–7:29; Luke 6:17-42).

# I. The Subjects of the Kingdom § 54: People entering Messiah's kingdom should show holiness instead of mere Pharisaical observances (Matt 5:1-16; Luke 6:17-26).

## The response a holy believer should have to the benefits and persecution related to trusting Christ as King is joy (Matt 5:1-12).

### The setting of the sermon shows Jesus taking the role of a rabbi to teach the disciples the response of those embracing him as king (Matt 5:1-2; Luke 6:17-19).

#### Jesus saw the crowds and sat down on a mountainside (1a).

#### Jesus began teaching his disciples who showed initiative to listen (1b-2).

### The benefits of trusting Christ as King are many (Matt 5:3-11; Luke 6:20-26).

#### *Depending on God* leads to a **rich experience of life** (5:3).

#### *Admitting our needs* leads to **receiving God’s comfort** (5:4).

#### *Humility* now brings **honor in the millennial kingdom** (5:5).

#### *Holiness* gives a **deep satisfaction** in life (5:6).

#### *Showing mercy* to others leads to **receiving mercy from God** (5:7).

#### A *pure lifestyle* results in **seeing God in our lives** today (5:8).

#### *Making peace* with others enables us to **be God’s channel** (5:9).

#### *Persecution for Christ* gives us a **rich experience of life** (5:10-11).

### The response a believer should have towards persecution is joy over his heavenly reward and identification with persecuted OT prophets (5:12).

## The way believers should bless others is to direct them to God (Matt 5:13-16).

### The way believers should bless others is by helping them hunger for God (5:13).

#### Christians function like salt to create hunger for God in others (5:13a).

#### Christians who don’t create a hunger for God in others are useless (5:13b).

### The way believers should bless others is by helping them praise God by the good works they do (5:14-16).

#### Christians are lights to show people to God (5:14a).

#### A city on a hill and a lamp help others see the way to go (5:14b-15).

#### Be “light” through good deeds to help others praise God (5:16).

# II. The Relation of the King to the Law § 55: Christ rejects the Pharisaic views of the law that the disciples might know the proper type of righteousness necessary to enter the kingdom (Matt 5:17–7:6; Luke 6:27-42).

## The way believers will be rewarded is by obeying and teaching the true spirit of Old Testament until all it says about Jesus comes true (5:17-20).

### The time the OT will disappear is when all it prophesies about Jesus comes true (5:17-18).

#### Jesus came to fulfill the OT rather than abolish it (5:17).

#### The OT won’t disappear until every prophecy about Christ is fulfilled in the eternal state (5:18).

### The way believers will be rewarded is by obeying and teaching the true spirit of Old Testament (5:19-20).

#### Our level of millennial rewards depends on practicing and teaching the true spirit of Old Testament (5:19).

#### We won’t even enter the millennium apart from internal holiness in Christ rather than external piety of the Pharisees (5:20).

## Christ rejected the Pharisaic righteousness as unable to bring one into the kingdom to teach that the second table of the law demanding proper conduct towards others should also be followed (Matt 5:21-48).

### **Murder**: One surpassing Pharisaic righteousness will not only preserve life but will avoid the anger, hatred and poor relationships that eventually lead to murder (Matt 5:21-26).

### **Adultery**: One surpassing Pharisaic righteousness will not only be faithful to his spouse but will shun the lust that causes adultery (Matt 5:27-30).

### **Divorce**: One surpassing Pharisaic righteousness will not only never divorce his wife without legal documentation but will never divorce his wife at all lest this cause her and her future husband to both commit adultery when she remarries (Matt 5:31-32).

### **Oaths**: One surpassing Pharisaic righteousness will not only take oaths when affirming something which could be taken in more than one way but will have trustworthy speech at all times so oath-taking becomes unnecessary (Matt 5:33-37).

### **Retaliation**: One surpassing Pharisaic righteousness will not demand his right for retaliation but give up such rights as a characteristic of righteousness and godliness (Matt 5:38-42).

### **Love**: One surpassing Pharisaic righteousness will not only love his neighbor who will repay favors but will love his enemy as well who will never repay favors (Matt 5:43-48; Luke 6:27-30, 32-36).

## Christ rejected six Pharisaic practices of the law that misconstrued its real intent to instruct why Pharisaic righteousness is not able to bring one into the kingdom since their hypocritical practices were directed man-ward for a reputation of piety rather than God-ward in true righteousness (Matt 6:1–7:6; Luke 6:37-42).

### Almsgiving: Public almsgiving of the Pharisees is repudiated for being performed to **demonstrate** piety rather than to demonstrate the love of God by meeting a need (Matt 6:1-4).

### **Prayer**: Public prayer of the Pharisees for human approval is repudiated for being performed to demonstrate piety and private prayer is encouraged which includes worship, supplication for God's work and personal needs, confession, prayer for protection and a forgiving spirit (Matt 6:5-15).

### **Fasting**: Public fasting of the Pharisees is repudiated for being performed to demonstrate piety rather than done privately before God to receive reward only from Him (Matt 6:16-18).

### **Eternal Investments**: Hoarding wealth as a sign of God's approval by the Pharisees is repudiated for being only temporary and making eternal investments is encouraged since they last into eternity and cannot be lost (Matt 6:19-24).

### **Worry**: Lack of faith by the Pharisees shown in trusting accumulated money is repudiated by an encouragement to replace worry about food and clothing with trust in God's daily provisions as one seeks the kingdom's arrival (Matt 6:25-34).

### **Judging**: Setting oneself up as judges and as the standard of judgment of the Pharisees is repudiated for being performed by claiming knowledge of the motive behind the action whereas God's righteousness demanded that one not judge until his own life has been purified (Matt 7:1-6; Luke 6:37-42).

# III. Instruction to Those Who Would Enter the Kingdom § 56: Christ knew that, in spite of the Pharisees' rejection, some would receive His teaching and would want to know how to enter the kingdom so He instructs those who desire to enter the kingdom in some pertinent areas (Matt 7:7-29).

## **Persistent prayer** will be answered because of God's nature as a Father makes sure His children's needs are met, not because of the endless repetitions of the Pharisees (Matt 7:7-12; Luke 6:31, 43-45).

## **The invitation to receive Christ** and enter the kingdom is given by declaring that He alone is the true, narrow way of access, not the false, broad way of the Pharisees that ultimately ended in exclusion from the kingdom and destruction (Matt 7:13-14).

## **False prophets** like the Pharisees have unrighteous lifestyles and will be judged because, while outwardly they fulfilled the requirements of the law, inwardly they lacked the relationship with the King that was the requisite for entrance into the kingdom (Matt 7:15-23).

## **Another invitation** to reject Pharisaism and accept Christ is given in a contrast between one who accepts the King's word and trusts His person and one who rejects His words and person, thus revealing that the destiny of those who hear Christ's words would be determined by their response to His message (Matt 7:24–8:1; Luke 6:46-49).

**Straight Talk on Lust**

***Matthew 5:27-30***

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

# *Exegetical Idea*: The way to avoid the seventh commandment of adultery is to protect yourself from lust (5:27-30).

# I. The nature of the seventh commandment of God is to avoid adultery (5:27).

## Jesus’ hearers knew the seventh commandment (5:27a).

## God prohibited adultery in this command (5:27b).

# II. The way to avoid adultery is to guard yourself from lust (5:28-30).

## Lust is adultery of the heart (5:28).

## We must protect ourselves from lust (5:29-30).

### Avoid seeing things that stimulate lust (5:29).

### Avoid doing things that encourage lust (5:30).

**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners will guard themselves from the lust that causes adultery.

**Homiletical Outline** (Cyclical inductive form)

# Introduction

### Interest: Sexual immorality is rampant today.

#### A nine-year-old boy in 1967 had a difficult time getting pornography.

#### However, sexually explicit images are readily available today: internet porn, DVDs, *Deadpool.*

#### The result is a society that devalues sex in marriage.

### Need: Are you winning your battle against sexual immorality?

#### Singles must win against fornication.

#### Those married must win against adultery.

### Subject: How can you guard yourself from sexual sin?

### Background: The listeners to Jesus in his Sermon on the Mount were primarily married, but what Jesus said about sexual sin actually relates to all of us.

### Preview: Today we’ll see two ways Jesus said you should guard yourself from sexual sin.

### Text: Matthew 5:27-30 has but four verses, yet they are packed with profound meaning.

(What’s the first way to guard from sexual sin?)

# I. Commit to sexual purity (5:27).

## Jesus’ hearers knew the seventh commandment (5:27a).

## God prohibited adultery in this command (5:27b).

## Will you pledge right now to keep sex within marriage?

(So how else can you guard yourself from sexual sin?)

# II. Guard yourself from lust (5:28-30).

## Lust is adultery of the heart (5:28).

## Guard yourself from lust (5:29-30).

### Guard your eyes from lust (5:29).

#### Avoid seeing things that stimulate lust.

#### The eye is the gateway to the mind.

### Guard your hands from lust (5:30).

#### Avoid doing things that encourage lust.

#### Never take off your wedding ring in public.

#### Watch your touching.

(So how can you guard yourself from sexual sin?)

# Conclusion

### Commit and watch (MI).

###  Ladies: How can *you* help us men?

#### Don’t tempt us by what you wear!

#### Don’t tempt us by what you do (Potiphar’s wife).

### Men: How can *you* guard *yourself* from sexual sin?

#### Stop making excuses.

#### Flee sexual immorality (1 Cor. 6:18).

#### Covenant with your eyes not to lust (Job 31:1).

#### Install Covenant Eyes software for you and your family to be accountable.

#### Read “Your Brain on Porn” at covenanteyes.com.

#### Be wary of films (see Pluggedin reviews).

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**Rick Griffith**

21 February 2016

Message 6 of 20

**Straight Talk on Lust**

***Matthew 5:27-30***

# Introduction

### Sexual immorality is rampant today.

### Are you winning your battle against sexual immorality?

#### Singles must win against fornication.

#### Those married must win against adultery.

### How can you guard yourself from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sin?

# I. Commit to sexual \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (5:27).

## Jesus’ hearers knew the seventh commandment (5:27a).

## God prohibited adultery in this command (5:27b).

## Will you pledge right now to keep sex within marriage?

# II. Guard yourself from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (5:28-30).

## Lust is adultery of the heart (5:28).

## Guard yourself from lust (5:29-30).

### Guard your eyes from lust (5:29).

### Guard your hands from lust (5:30).

(So how can you guard yourself from sexual sin?)

# Conclusion

### \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Main Idea).

###  Ladies: How can *you* help us men?

#### Don’t tempt us by what you wear!

#### Don’t tempt us by what you do (Potiphar’s wife).

### Men: How can *you* guard *yourself* from sexual sin?

#### Stop making excuses.

#### Flee sexual immorality (1 Cor. 6:18).

#### Covenant with your eyes not to lust (Job 31:1).

#### Install Covenant Eyes software for you and your family to be accountable.

#### Read “Your Brain on Porn” at covenanteyes.com.

#### Be wary of films (see Pluggedin reviews).

**Thought Questions**

1. List all the results of adultery and lust in Matthew 5:27-30.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Cause** | **Result** |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |

1. Which of today’s suggested applications relates most to you? *So what will you do now?*

Text

Text

Download this sermon PPT and notes for free at BibleStudyDownloads.org/resource/new-testament-preaching/

1. Matthew G. Easton and Ray Comfort, “Adultery,” <http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/adultery.html> (accessed 19 Feb 2017). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)