

A. SERMON SLIDES

Slide 1: Title

Purity and Passion

Matthew 5:27-30

Slide 2:

Matthew 5:27–30 (ESV)

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 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. 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.”

Slide 3:

- 1) Sexual desire is central, good and an ordained human experience
- 2) It must be realized in the context of complete covenant commitment
- 3) Lust is sexual desire as an ultimate consumer experience
- 4) You are personally responsible for sexual self-control
- 5) The consequences of not being self-controlled are eternally grim
- 6) We need a Savior, and in this case...an Ultimate Lover

Slide 4:

Central and Ordained

The creation of sex and the benediction of God

Slide 5:

Context of Covenant

Why is Covenant Crucial

- 1) It's the only safe place for that level of vulnerability and knowing
- 2) It's the only place where the experience of sex deepens and grows
- 3) It's the only place where sex becomes a sacrament

Slide 6:

has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

Slide 7:

"epithymeos"

Means OVER-DESIRE

Taking something good and making it ultimate

Slide 8:

Lust is not sexual desire

Lust is any desire, in this case, an inordinate, impersonal desire for any man or woman as if they can heal one's soul.

Slide 9:

Personally Responsible

"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. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away."

Slide 10:

Thoughts happen to us, but lust is playing and fantasizing with intent

Slide 11:

Dire Circumstances

"Gehenna" = Valley of Hinnom

Slide 12:

We Need a Lover

Jesus the Bridegroom

B. GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Read Matthew 5:27-30.

What does it say? How have you interpreted this before? How would you explain it to someone else?

3. What is the new understanding of adultery? What is the newer understanding of the law that Jesus is communicating?

4. In what way is "woman made for man, and not man for woman?" (I Corinthians 11:9) And how does that explain "lust" possibly being uniquely different for a man?

5) The word translated "lust" is not sexual desire...but "epithymeo." Why is that word used here, and how can one "epithymeo" even in marriage?

6) How does Jesus as Bridegroom heal all of us?

7) Prayer and praise