

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

The Beauty Found in Sexual Fidelity

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
June 9, 2024



Matthew 5:27-30 (NLT) “You have heard the commandment that says, ‘You must not commit adultery.’²⁸ But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.²⁹ 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.³⁰ And if your hand—even your stronger hand—causes you to sin, cut it off 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.”

- **God has a good design for our sexuality.**
- **To be Kingdom people our desires need to be redeemed to reflect God's heart.**

“Because discipleship is self-denial and a complete bond with Jesus, at no point may the disciple's desire-driven will take over...Our bond to Jesus Christ permits no desire without love.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer

- **Make a radical commitment to sexual purity.**

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- **We need a greater affection to overcome our lesser desires.**

“The heart must have something to cling to...and the only way to dispossess it of an old affection is by the expulsive power of a new one...The best way to overcome the world [or human desire] is not with morality or self-discipline. Christians overcome the world [and desire] by seeing the beauty and excellence of Christ. They overcome the world by seeing something more attractive than the world: Christ” Thomas Chalmers - *The Expulsive Power of a New Affection*

1 John 1:5-9 (NIV) “This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.⁶ If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth.⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

Big Idea: Pursue Jesus as the pure One to become like Him in purity.

How do you walk this out today...

- **Repent and receive grace for all sin.**
- **Choose God's design for your sexuality.**
- **Pursue intimacy with Christ to foster pure desires.**



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
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Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

The Beauty Found in Sexual Fidelity
#9 of 26 - June 9, 2024

- 1) What has God revealed to you through the **Gospel Reading Challenge** this week? What have you learned or been able to apply?
- 2) **Consider having the men and women break up into separate groups for this conversation to create more openness and transparency.**
- 3) Read Matthew 5:27-30. What is the **Context** for this passage? Who is the writer and the recipients? Where does this fit in the book as a whole?
- 4) **Observation:** What “jumps out” in these passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions does it raise for you?
- 5) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in this for us?
- 6) What is Jesus saying about adultery, lust, and sexual purity? How does Jesus take us deeper into God’s heart and will in this regard? What are the implications for those who want to follow Jesus and His Way of the Kingdom?
- 7) Read 1 John 1:5-9. What does this passage tell us about purity and how does this give us hope today? What are the implications for us as it relates to sexual purity?
- 8) **Application:** What resonates with you from this message? In what ways can you apply the teachings of Jesus today?
- 9) Reflect on this quote and consider your next steps towards pursuing intimacy with Christ: *“The heart must have something to cling to...and the only way to dispossess it of an old affection is by the expulsive power of a new one...The best way to overcome the world [or human desire] is not with morality or self-discipline. Christians overcome the world [and desire] by seeing the beauty and excellence of Christ. They overcome the world by seeing something more attractive than the world: Christ” Thomas Chalmers - The Expulsive Power of a New Affection*



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