

I. Clear Boundaries Are Established (27)

A. **Boundaries for the married: heterosexual monogamy** - “You have heard that it was said, You shall not commit adultery.”

B. **Boundaries for the unmarried - There is no lawful outlet for the unmarried concerning sex**

Fornication - *porneia* - describes any sexual contact outside the bounds of marriage

1. Gentile Christians commanded to abstain from fornication (Acts 15:20)
2. Fornication condemned by the Apostle Paul (Romans 1:29)
3. Fornicators disciplined in the local assembly (1 Corinthians 5)
4. Those who engage in fornication degrade Christ Himself (1 Cor 6:15-19)
5. Fornication is characteristic of those who are unsaved (Galatians 5:19)
6. Christians are called to repent of the sin of fornication (2 Corinthians 12:21)
7. The will of God is that Christians completely abstain from fornication (1 Thessalonians 4:3)

C. **Blessings for the married**

Proverbs 5:15-19

“Drink water from your own cistern, flowing water from your own well. 16 Should your springs be scattered abroad, streams of water in the streets? 17 Let them be for yourself alone, and not for strangers with you. 18 Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, 19 a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love.”

1 Corinthians 7:2-5

“Because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. 3 The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. 4 For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise, the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. 5 Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.”

Hebrews 13:4

“Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.”

II. Carnal Behaviors Are Exposed (28)

A. **There is a look** - “But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman...”

B. **There is a longing** - “...with lustful intent...” **The strong inner impulse rooted in sinful, selfish desire**

C. **There is a lie** - “...has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” **Adultery is a sin of the heart which is merely carried out by the body.**

III. Consecrated Bodies Are Expected (29-30)

A. **Diagnose yourself** - “...If your right eye causes you to sin... if your right hand causes you to sin...”

B. **Enter a radical heart-posture** - “...tear it out and throw it away... cut it off and throw it away...”

C. **Become sobered on this issue** - “For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. 30...For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.”