



Go for God!

“Let’s Talk Marriage & the “D” Word!”

MATTHEW Chapter 5:27-32

> (v27-30) The Heart of Adultery

- Begins with *Lust* – Desire for what is forbidden; an obsessive sexual craving. The *"lust after evil things"* (1 Cor 10:6-13) of the Israelites in the wilderness serves as an example of the lusts that should be avoided by Christians. Christians can resist lust through the power of the Holy Spirit.

- *Lust* is described as that which is against the Spirit within believers! - Galatians 5:16-25. Let’s not become a P.O.W. to the worldly sinful culture, our own sinful flesh, or the devil himself!

> Here’s how to fight back with the POW effect:

- **PRAY!** – Jesus said in Matthew 26:41 - Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

- **OBEY!** - Rom 6:12-14 - Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

- **WILLPOWER!** - 1 John 2:15-17 - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world -- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life -- is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. (Jesus said in Matthew 6:10 - “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;” also in Luke 22:42 - “Not My will but yours be done”.)

(v29-30) – What does Jesus mean about the eye and the hand, when He says pluck it out or cut it off?

- #1 - **DO NOT TAKE THIS LITERALLY!** - Jesus was not advocating self-mutilation, this would not cure lust; lust is a problem of the heart’s desires. He was using this graphic hyperbole to demonstrate the seriousness of sin, lust, and evil desire.

- Are you a lust buster? Or a busted luster like King David? (David’s adultery - 2 Samuel Ch. 11, David’s repentance Psalm 51:1-13).

> (v31-32) Marriage & Divorce

- Marriage is the divine union of one biological man and one biological woman according to Genesis 2:18-25 (Adam & Eve). Marriage was to be sacred and sanctified, but divorce had become commonplace in Jesus day.

- Remember the “*woman at the well*” (John Ch. 4), she had five husbands and was living with a sixth man. There were two schools of thought regarding divorce in the times of Christ: Rabbi Hillel took a very lax view and said that the husband could divorce his wife for almost any reason, while Rabbi Shammai took the stricter view and said Moses (Deut. 24:1-4) was speaking only about sexual sin.

- What does God say about divorce?

(1) Malachi 2:16 reads, “*For the LORD God of Israel says that He hates divorce,*”

(2) According to Jesus divorce is permissible, not required, if physical adultery is committed (sexual intercourse with another person, not your spouse, homosexuality, incest, bestiality) (Mt. 5:32; Mt. 19:8).

(2) Let’s read 1 Corinthians 7:10-16. The second reason for divorce is if the non-believer divorces the believer, then the **believer would be free to remarry**. There are no grounds for divorce due to irreconcilable differences.

- If spousal abuse is involved whether physical or emotional, then separation and counseling is advised (1 Cor. 7:5). Physical abuse is assault and battery and the perpetrator should be arrested and prosecuted.

(v32) *causes her to commit adultery* - The meaning here is that an illegitimate divorce leads an individual (the woman in this illustration) to be subjugated to “adultery” having sexual relations with another, whereas, it was meant for that one and only person she originally married.

- Remarriage is permitted if the divorce is legitimate according to adultery or the non-believer divorces the believer.

> Let’s not talk divorce, let’s develop great marriages:

- Jesus said in John 13:34-35 – “*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.*”

- Paul gives us MARRIAGE INSTRUCTIONS in Ephesians chapter 5.

- Someone’s Godly advice: **TEN RULES FOR MARRIAGE**

#1 – You must marry the right person, one you love and one who loves you, and both of you must be in love with Jesus Christ.

#2 – GIVE and TAKE is a necessity. Let love cover the disagreements which will come in any marriage.

#3 – Never carry into tomorrow the petty troubles of today. Forgive at the end of the day, and then forget.

#4 – Don't discuss your disagreements and personal problems with others. You will soon forget these quarrels, but others will remember them forever. Go to the LORD for the advice you need.

#5 – Try to live within your financial means. Don't try to keep up with some other couple; keep within your income. And be sure to set aside something for the Lord's work.

#6 – Keep your love as romantic as possible. Appreciate each other. Express that appreciation in actual love and affection in the home.

#7 – NEVER, NEVER, NEVER even think of divorce as a solution for your marriage problems. You took your vows "until death do us part." So often, divorce never settles anything.

#8 – Keep your eyes on the person you have married, and don't bother looking around for someone else. Wandering eyes benefit no marriage.

#9 – Read God's Word and pray together every day. To pray together is to stay together.

#10 – Let Christ shed the love of God abroad in your heart, and you will be sure to have love for each other.

LET'S GO4GOD!!!