



## PART 5: SEX, COMMITMENT & TRUST

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### Sermon Notes

**Text: Matthew 5:27-37**

#### Introduction:

The Bible is full of sex, sexual imagery, and important lessons and regulations about sex.

Sometimes we think we shouldn't talk about sex in church, but that leads us to getting false messages about sex.

#### 1. The Context for Sex

The primary purpose of sex is *oneness* - Genesis 2:24

Sex is a physical act, which represents, celebrates and consummates the oneness of husband and wife. It is reserved exclusively for the context of marriage.

#### 2. The Heart of Sex

The Heart is the seat of the mind, will and emotions. Our corrupt hearts can lead us astray when it comes to sex.

God has given believers a new heart (Ezekiel 36:26-27). This heart needs to be exercised. When fully developed, we are free to "follow our heart."

To look lustfully means that you are engaging in all the elements of a genuine act of adultery other than the bodily action. The heart elements are there. Usually the only thing lacking for overt action is occasion.

"Just as the thief is the person who would steal if circumstances were right, so the adulterer is the one who would have wrongful sex if the circumstances were right." ~Dallas Willard

Mark 7:21-23

Job 31:1

#### 3. The Nature of Commitment

5:31-32

Jesus is addressing a contemporary debate about divorce. He affirms the the nature of commitment. Marriage is a powerful bond that is impossible to break even in divorce, so divorce should not be taken lightly.

Malachi 2:26

Jesus is addressing the *culture* of divorce: the idea that we can just drop or swap our spouses for what we think is a better option.

The sin of divorce isn't divorce itself; it's adultery and violence.

#### 4. Habits of the Heart

##### i. Yes or No

Matthew 5:33-37

The best way to learn how to keep your big promises is to keep your little promises.

"Oaths arise because men are so often liars" ~A.M Hunter

##### ii. Throw it Away

Matthew 5:29-30

“If you dismember your body to the point where you could never murder or even look lustfully at another, never commit adultery or even look to lust, your heart could still be full of anger, contempt, and obsessive desire for what is wrong, no matter how thoroughly stifled or suppressed it may be.” ~Dallas Willard

Jesus is calling us to take radical steps to rid our lives of the idols that ensnare us.

### iii. Lean in to God

God is the victim of divorce and adultery - Jeremiah 3:8

Psalms 34:18

1 John 3:20

## Life Group Discussion

### Warm up:

1. Warm up:

### Study & Discussion:

1. Read Matthew 19:1-12. What does this passage add to the Matthew 5 passage? What does it say about the human heart? Scholars and pastors still debate whether or not divorce should ever be an option (Jesus gives one context: “sexual immorality”). How do you think Christians should approach the topic of divorce?
2. Read Job 31:1-12. What does this passage say about how our eyes and heart entice us? What did Job mean when he said he “made a covenant with [his] eyes.” What is the result of adultery, according to Job?

3. Read Matthew 5:33-37. How does Jesus’ teaching about oaths connect to his teaching about adultery and divorce? Jesus gives examples of the things people swore by in his day...what kinds of oaths do people take today? Why does Jesus want us to stop this?

### Application:

1. How do we apply Jesus’ words in Matthew 5:29-30? What specific things might we need to “throw away” in order to maintain our sexual purity?
2. Read 1 John 3:20. How can this verse comfort us when we struggle?

### Prayer:

1. Pray for the marriages in our church and in our city.
2. Other requests
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