

Adultery: It Starts in the Heart! Matthew 5:27-30 Shocking Statements of Christ (Sermon on the Mount, Part 2)

²⁷ “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘*You shall not commit adultery.*’ ²⁸ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.”

At a Pastor’s conference an older Pastor began his message this way: Brothers I have a confession to make. **“I spent the best years of my life in the arms of a woman who was not my wife!”** As the audience gasped he said, “She was my mother!”- all laughed

A young Pastor who was there thought – that is brilliant and decided to use it on his congregation back home. So the next Sunday:

He began – his message by saying: **I have a confession to make today: “I spent the best years of my life in the arms of a woman who was not my wife.”**

The congregation gasped as the preacher paused, problem was **at that moment his mind went blank, he couldn’t remember the punch line**
Everyone was starring in horror – he was turning beat red – sweat forming on forehead

After a few nervous moments he said, **“And for the life of me, I can't remember who she was!”**

Seriously: Adultery is no laughing Matter.

A) Many of you know first hand the Pain and Devastation that accompanies that sin!

B) Broken hearts – Broken families – Destroyed lives.

C) That is our subject matter today: But here in

Shocking Statement #3 **Jesus takes the commandment to abstain from adultery to a whole new level.**

D) Recall: Theme of this section: **V.20 Your righteousness.....exceed.....**

1) Religious leaders focus – Outward and external.

2) Jesus: The heart – He has to live there

E) Murder starts in the heart – Anger and Hatred

1) Adultery starts in the heart too! – Begins with a longing look!

Before we look at what Jesus had to say here - As a BACKDROP to our conversation today –

A) I want to take you back to the book of Genesis. – ORIGINS OF MARRIAGE. - Back to the Beginning of Creation. –

B) God spoke the world into existence:

1st Day: Light & Darkness - It was good!

2nd Day: Sky and Oceans - It was good

3rd Day: Land – planet earth divisions – land and sea - It was good!

4th Day: Sun, moon and stars – It was good

5th Day Animal life: Birds and sea creatures - It was good!

C) But Day six was different – there **is a pause** in the narrative – conversation takes place amongst the Godhead.

Let us make man in our Image: Translation- the next thing that is created is going to be different than all the rest.

A) **TALKING THE CROWN JEWEL OF CREATION**

B) Man and women, uniquely made in the image of God ! – Imago Dei – Unique and Special

C) **TOUGH TIMES: Financially tight** – Might consider getting rid of your dog or cat - save on food cost. Decide between – Dog or Cat?

D) But You are not going to throw your wife or Kids into the equation

1) Dog/Cat or wife or kids even though **they cost me 10x what the dog or cat does.** – Why?

We Value human life above everything else – God intended it to be that way!

A) Man alone was made in the image of God.

❖ **Man was Made to rule and reign over creation**

❖ **Made to live with a Moral compass** – (Only man received a prohibition)

❖ **Made to live in RELATIONSHIP**

B) **FIRST** w/ God and then with other men & women.

C) Last week – **Thou shall not commit murder** – Imago Dei issue

Genesis 9:6 **“Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man.”**

D) Murder, whether literally or verbally or hatred in our hearts, we are devaluing man who was made in the image of God!

Within that creation of Man – God also created a special relationship for man – Unlike any other.

A) Created the Bond of Marriage: Special union – special relationship. Genesis 2:24

"For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed."

B) **One flesh is more than a sexual thing:**

1) God is describing a **TOTAL UNION OF TWO** Persons *cleaving* to one another in **physical, social, emotional, and spiritual** union.

C) Marriage is this incredible picture of two people becoming one

1) Picture of Christ and the church.

D) So When people **engage in Adultery**: Imago Dei issue –

When a man looks at a woman or vice versa – Woman or Man simply an object of sexual gratification

A) Devaluing this person who has been uniquely made in the image of God

B) Devaluing and Breaking apart - What God has created, and joined together

1) This unique relationship that God has joined together.

C) Listen, if your Dog gets out of the back yard – and runs around the neighboring hooking up with all the Lassies on your street. – **UPSET NEIGHBORS**

1) But no one is filing for Divorce - no one is calling Lawyers. Why?

D) That is what animals do – they just seek whatever way they can to fulfill their biological urges.

If your dog has to go – can’t get out of the house – You come home to a mess on the carpet or in the kitchen

A) More angry at yourself than your dog because you forgot to put him out.

B) He is just doing what animals do – **BUT WE ARE NOT ANIMALS**

1) Higher – made for a higher purpose

C) Man made in the image of God **ALONE** that has the capacity to serve God and glorify God.

So Man/Woman were uniquely made in the image of God:

A) God uniquely gave **TO** this married couple a Mission.

B) Genesis 1:28 first marriage – God blessed them and said to them

1) God blessed them: **HOW? GAVE THEM A MISSION**

²⁸ **Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”**

C) Mission was Two fold: **#1 be fruitful and multiply** and **#2 Take care of what I put into your hands:**

Listen: Help you right now: All married – all of you who want to be married

A) Marriage is about so much more than your own personal happiness!

B) We have to get this idea out of our heads: She is meant to complete me – He fulfills me

1) Curing loneliness was one aspect for Marriage

C) God intends Marital sex to be enjoyable and exciting!

But there is to be so much more to this relationship

A) Another Huge part was: You have a mission.

B) You have a purpose together to Glorify God together – take care of what he has put in your hands

C) **Gifts, Talents, Resources** – (tithing – whole new light seen through this lense)

1) Gifts, Talents, Resources and a Sphere of Influence

Now if You lose sight of who you are Imago Dei – Person made in image of God - Live in relationship with God – Reflect God to others.

A) Lose sight of your purpose as a person: Glorify God – Bless God as an individual and as a couple.

B) Start thinking about and focusing on your own personal happiness – your fulfillment

C) **Easier for you to end up going down this road – Adultery.**

1) In the Heart or in Reality

The minute you start feeling like: I am not as happy as I once was. Or as I thought I was going to be.

A) Not as fulfilled as I ONCE WAS - Problem – She is not doing it for me anymore – He is neglecting me

B) The minute you start thinking that way: **TROUBLE WITH A CAPITAL T**

C) You are a human being made in the image of God

D) Made For a higher purpose **than to be like your dog – SEEKING** how to fulfill urges

E) When a human being focuses on Whatever pleases himself – Instead of pursuing God

1) He is pursuing his own lust – We call that Hedonism

#2 Hedonism is an attack on God's design for man and marriage.

❖ **Hedonism is the philosophy that makes personal pleasure the chief goal in life!**

A) We live in an Hedonistic culture that is obsessed with making personal pleasure and happiness the chief goal in life! – But that is not new to us.

B) Beginning of man's existence: Forgets who He is – Imago Dei

1) Book of Judges – Everyone did what was right in own eyes.

C) It was common in New Testament times as well, and Paul faced it full force in Corinth.

1) His comment “Food is for the stomach, and the stomach is for food” (1 Cor. 6:13a)

D) Expressed the common Greek notion that biological functions are just biological functions and have no moral significance.

It was a belief many of the Corinthian believers had reverted to, or had never given up, in order to justify their sexual misconduct.

A) Apparently they were arguing, as do many hedonists today, that sex is simply a biological act, no different morally from eating, drinking, or sleeping.

B) It was just a Physical thing: SEX IS NOT JUST A PHYSICAL THING – ITS A SPIRITUAL THING

C) Believer in Christ - Your body is not your own But is actually a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:15, 19).

D) It is therefore never to be used for any purpose that dishonors the God who made and indwells it.

1) Premarital sex as Well as Extra marital sex is – **ADULTERY IS DOING JUST THAT! – IMAGO DEI ISSUE – Devaluing Man and Dishonoring God!**

But Jesus takes this to a whole new level and blows everyone's mind here: SS #3 Adultery starts in the Heart!

²⁷“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

A) Lust = To look at someone and Desire them sexually.

B) Longing look – where mind goes where it should never go! Make happen

C) Note: **It is not a sin to see a beautiful woman or a handsome man!**

1) Unavoidable Culture we live in – Sex is so prevalent in Advertising – media

2) One ad group – realized – doesn't work – people thinking more about sex than product

D) Culture of People who aggressively flaunt their sexuality and appearance –

1) Leaving nothing to the imagination.

E) Lust is different from Temptation: All get tempted to look – Men and woman

The ISSUE BECOMES what do you do when you see that person? That ad that commercial / Show?

A) Does your Mind go places it never should go

B) **Do you Look away or linger?**

1) Look away or 2nd look – 3rd look?

C) Something sensual comes on TV – do you change the Channel – Forward **or do you watch it and rewind it**

D) Temptation isn't the problem – always be there - Lusting – THAT IS THE PROBLEM.

DAVID'S SIN WAS NOT SEEING BATHSHEBA –

A) She is out in the open taking a bath – His sin was lingering – then acting!

B) LUST GROWS – NOT DEALT WITH - OUT OF CONTROL

C) **HORROR STORIES OF MEN AND NOW WOMEN** – who have lost everything because of an addiction to Porn

Here is the argument: What is the big deal – just looking – not doing anything! Private – innocent

A) Jesus says: It is the same – Adultery in your heart!

B) Have you ever thought about this: that person you are looking at lusting over is someone's son or daughter. **My girls - KNOCK YOU OUT – precious..**

C) **THAT PERSON IS SOMEONE – PRECIOUS TO GOD –**

1) Made in His image – destroyed by sin – He sent His son – to die for!

We are told in 1 Timothy 2:22 - Flee youthful lust – but instead of fleeing a lot of people want to play with it.

A) Think it is ok – to flirt a little.

B) Married people with inappropriate friendships - It is innocent: just a lunch – no big deal

C) Where your treasure is your heart will be there also – You start sharing your treasure with someone not your spouse – Heart will follow. – STUPID

YOUNG people in particular like to ask this one: Old people too!

A) How far is too far? – Where is the point where it's crossing the line into sin?

B) **What are we allowed to do physically?** – Usually it is the guy who is concerned about this.
1) Sexual intercourse is off the table – but can we do this?

C) Wrong question: QUESTION should be – How Godly can we keep this relationship?
1) How can we keep this THING honoring to God!

Proverbs: Can Man take fire to his bosom and not get burned – NO ! – Burning log

A) YOU IDIOT OF COURSE NOT!

B) Physical touch – gets the fire going –

1) Desire is building:

C) Jesus says that is where sin starts! It starts in the heart

1) Allowed to grow – Bring forth death

D) So what do we do if I have allowed the fire to get started – given over to lust?

#4 Take Radical action against Lust:

²⁹ “If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.”

A) Now it is important to note that the words of Jesus were never intended to be taken literally here.

1) Jesus is not advocating SELF Mutilation. – **Repeat**

B) Don't want to show up next week – Punch of guys wearing eye patches. /

1) Missing hands

C) I say that because people have taken it literally: Heard about a guy – fork in his eye.

1) CCCM – Young man – band saw to his hand.

D) Origen: Castrated himself – Didn't solve the problem – still struggled

1) **Saint Anthony became a hermit** – isolated himself from temptation – Didn't solve the problem – Still lusted in his heart!

E) Blind men can still battle lust - See it in their minds

So if Jesus doesn't want us to take this literally – What is He saying? TAKE SIN SERIOUSLY!

A) Graphic illustration OT 1 Samuel 15 Saul brings back Agag as a trophy.

B) Samuel – give me your sword! HACKED Agag TO PIECES

C) Point. Get aggressive about dealing with Sin!

Interesting Jesus uses right eye and Right hand

in his illustration. Why the right eye and hand?

A) IN that culture as in ours most people were right handed. –

B) So the **right eye** represented your best vision. **Right hand** your one's best skills.

Bb) Jesus' point is that we should be willing to give up whatever is necessary,

1) Even the most cherished things we possess, if doing that will help protect us from evil.

C) How many of you liked to **catch lizards** when you were young? Lizards are cool!

1) How many of you learned – Never grab a Lizard by the tail? – Why? - It breaks off.

D) **Lizards are wise:** A lizard is willing to sacrifice his tail in order to save his life!

What are you willing to Sacrifice in order to Save your Soul? – Avoid giving into temptation.

A) I know Guys who got rid of their computers –

Aa) **Got rid of freedom: Pass Codes** – Wife or a friend if not married. Wise

1) **ONE young GUY SMASHED HIS** – PORN PROBLEM – he and roommates.

B) Ladies quit jobs – because inappropriate friendship. –

1) Trust God and find a job somewhere else.

C) Guys who quit going to the beach unless to surf – early in the morning or late in the afternoon. – Sun bathers were gone – TOURIST LEFT

Pastors and leaders conference in Costa Rica – Beach community – very immoral – Gospel.

A) Guys all surfing: COMMON Occurrence: Here comes good looking local girl paddling out – wearing next to nothing. – What do you do?

B) I get out – I don't care how good the waves are. –

1) I paddle to another break.

C) One guy interesting: **First chance I get – I drop in on her – Cut her off on a wave.**

1) She starts yelling – Cussing – Dragon lady fangs– no longer attractive.

I kind of like that: I am not going to flirt with Temptation – I am going to assault it! -

A) That is what Jesus is getting at here: Get Radical about dealing with Sin

Aa) **Don't pamper it/ FLIRT W/ IT - ASSAULT IT!**

B) Being willing to give up something precious – give up a liberty if it means saving your own soul.

C) All learn from YOUNG MAN NAMED DANIEL

1) Daniel seemed to understand this: 14 yrs old taken to Babylon.

E) **Eat kings food – In his heart – Wrong**

1) EITHER agreeing idols are real gods by eating food – sacrificed or Against Kosher

His Stand: Daniel purposed in his heart – not to defile himself.- DANIEL 1:8

A) **DEFILE**: interesting word: Back to Imago Dei – not going to **MAR THE IMAGE!**

B) Purposed in **HIS HEART!**

1) Starts with purposing in your heart!

C) Proverbs 4:23, 26-27

Guard your heart with all diligence, For out of it *spring* the issues of life

Jesus gives the greatest attention to the heart because – He has to live there

A) Jesus wants us to understand: if the heart is **RIGHT/ EVERYTHING ELSE FALLS INTO PLACE**

B) See, when the focus is on the outward: Exhausting:

1) It is hard to keep track of my eyes, ears, and the rest –

C) Exhausting way to live if I have this long list of things I need to pay attention to and consider my Christianity has no Joy- Drag

D) God gives us one thing to keep track of – OUR HEARTS

1) **HIS WORD AND HIS SPIRIT ARE OUR INSTRUCTORS**

E) Heart is right everything else falls into place.

My heart I understand: Imago Dei – I exist for something greater than simply physical pleasure.

A) My heart understands why I exist – Relationship with God – His glory

B) Focus of my marriage is a mission – Glory to God and Spouse

C) Following Augustine's advice: Love God and do whatever you want!

1) If Heart is right that works

❖ **Guardrails**

Proverbs 4:23, 26-27

Guard your heart with all diligence, For out of it *spring* the issues of life. ~ Proverbs

²⁶ Ponder the path of your feet, And let all your ways be established.

²⁷ Do not turn to the right or the left; Remove your foot from evil.

ACCOUNTABILITY