

Exposition of Matthew Adultery, Lust and the Fight for Purity (5:27-30)

Introduction

I. Adultery and Lust (5:27-28)

- A. You have heard it was said, You shall not commit adultery (27)
Ex. 20:14; Deut. 5:18
Death penalty: Lev. 20:10; Deut. 22:22
Premarital sex: Deut. 22:13-21
- B. The antithesis: But I say to you (28)
- C. Everyone looking at a woman to desire her
 - 1. Present tense participle - a studied look with sexual intent (Osborne).
 - 2. Specifically wanting (and planning?) to have sexual relations with her.
 - 3. "Jesus refers not to noticing a person's beauty, but to imbibing it, meditating on it, seeking to possess it" (Keener).
- D. Already committed adultery in his heart
This is not a new idea - Job 31:1, 9; Ex. 20:14

"But Jesus placed the responsibility for lust on the person doing the lusting. He treats lust as if it is exclusively a sin of the lusting heart, not a sin of letting hair out from under one's covering" (Keener, 187).

II. The Fight for Purity (5:29-30)

- A. Right eye/right hand stumbling blocks
If your right eye stumbles you And if your right hand stumbles you (29-30)
 - 1. Right eye (the eye is often the gate of sin)
Gen 3:6; 1 Jn 2:16; Num 15:39; Prov 21:4; 27:20; Ezek 6:9; 20:8
 - 2. Right hand
Euphemism for sexual organ (Isa. 57:8)
Self-stimulation
Greater value and usefulness
"Jesus' choice of the eye and hand makes great sense, for they are the primary elements in moving from lust (the eye) to adultery (the hand)" (Grant Osborne, 196).
 - 3. Stumbles [Gk. σκανδαλιζω]
- B. Radical Removal

Remove it and throw it out from you/Cut it off and throw it away from you
Deal radically and ruthlessly with sin
Vincimus fugiendo: We conquer by flight!
Spurgeon, “the best antidote to a temptation is very often a good pair of legs and the king’s highway!”
1 Cor. 6:18
“The theme is impediments to ultimate salvation, and the importance of eliminating them at all costs...” (France, 206).

C. Sin’s Reward

For it is better for you one of your members to be destroyed rather than your whole body to be cast into Gehenna

The fear of consequences is one of the motives the Bible uses to keep us from sin.

- Prov. 5:20-23; 6:32-35; 7:21-27
- This (Matt. 5:29-30) is as severe as it gets. The idea is that losing our most important “appendages” is far better than to lose everything at the final judgment.

Application

1. The issue of adultery is an issue of the heart.
2. The issue is so serious that Jesus says we need to exercise the most radical amputations.
3. “This issue has become a pandemic, and every church and Christian group should be seeking solutions even more vigorously than in the past” (Grant Osborne, 197).
4. Right thinking and what we feed into our minds and imaginations is critical. Phil. 4:8
5. Weigh your conscience down with the consequences of sexual sin.
6. Have a Gospel-oriented view of the body and sex (1 Cor. 6:9-20)
7. Note the young people: The Bible does not tell young people “No!” It tells them, “Wait, wait until you can enjoy this without harm, without shame, and without deep and lasting regret.” And to a young person who is sorely tempted to say “I don’t want to wait,” the Bible replies “the regret will be there whether or not you want it if you don’t wait.” (Rayburn)

Resources:

John Piper's ANTHEM: Strategies for Fighting Lust

<http://www.desiringgod.org/resource-library/taste-see-articles/anthem-strategies-for-fighting-lust>

Covenant Eyes (internet accountability)

Borgman, Men's Breakfast 3 messages *How to Hack Off Your Right Hand* (available through tape ministry or sermonaudio.com)

CCEF Booklets (in stock in counseling room)

Sexual Addiction: Freedom from Compulsive Behavior

Restoring Your Broken Marriage: Healing After Adultery

Help! My Spouse Committed Adultery: First Steps for Dealing with Betrayal

Sex Before Marriage: How Far is too Far?

It's All About Me: The Problem with Masturbation

Books on Purity/Internet

John White, *Eros Defiled: The Christian and Sexual Sin*

Daryl Wingerd, *Delivered By Desire: The Encouraging Truth about Christians and Sexual Purity* (in book room)

Robert Scott, gen ed. *Secret Sex Wars: A Battle Cry for Purity* (in counseling room)

William Struthers, *Wired for Intimacy: How Pornography Hijacks the Male Brain*

Books on a healthy biblical view of sex

John Piper and Justin Taylor, *Sex and Supremacy of Christ*

Tim Gardner, *Sacred Sex*

