

The Deadly Sin of Lust – Pt. 2

Matthew 5:27–30

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MAIN IDEA: In Matthew 5:27–30, Jesus Christ addresses the sin of lust. And he teaches that in God’s eyes, sinful lust violates the seventh commandment (“You shall not commit adultery”).

SERMON OUTLINE:

- I. The Law against Adultery Recalled (27)
- II. The Law against Adultery Misinterpreted (27-28)
- III. **The Law against Adultery Explained (28)**
 - A. **The Sin that Jesus Condemns (28a)**
 1. **Who can commit this sin? — Everyone**
 2. **What is the focus of this sin? — Sexual desire for anyone other than your spouse and anything with your spouse that God forbids**
 3. **What is the nature of this sin? — Looking to lust**

What Lust Is Not

1. To find someone physically beautiful or attractive (Gen. 1:31; 29:17; 1 Sam. 16:12)
2. To anticipate, as an unmarried person, the reality of physical intimacy in marriage (Pr. 5:18-19)
3. To anticipate and be excited about enjoying physical intimacy with your spouse (Song of Solomon)
4. To enjoy memories of your spouse’s body (Song of Solomon)
5. To have the body sexually excited without sinful thinking or conscious decision (Mt. 5:28)
6. To experience external sexual temptation (Heb. 4:15)
7. To experience momentary internal temptation to sexual lust (1 Cor. 10:13)

What Lust Is

1. Defining the Word
 - The Greek epithumia means “a strong desire.”
 - Most often of some sinful desire (Ex. 20:17)
 - Endemic to the unregenerate heart (Eph. 2:3; Titus 3:3)
 - The primary characteristic of the believer’s flesh (Jam. 1:14; 1 Pet. 2:11)
 - In NT, often sinful sexual desires (Rom. 1:24; Eph. 2:3; Col. 3:5; 1 Th. 4:5; 2 Tim. 3:6; 1 Pet. 4:3; 2 Pet. 2:18)
2. Defining the Sin
 - Looking for the purpose of promoting sexual desire for something or someone who is not your spouse

3. Identifying its Expressions
 - a. Looking at a person
 - b. Looking at an image
 - c. Creating or recalling sexual images in the mind or imagination
 - d. Doing anything—intentionally or carelessly—that excites lust in others

Intentionally or Carelessly Exciting Lust in Others

1. Moving your body in a way intended to produce lust (Pr. 6:25)
2. Wearing clothing or revealing your body—intentionally or carelessly—in a way likely to elicit lust (Pr. 7:10; 1 Tim. 2:9)
3. Using words intended to seduce or tempt sexually (Pr. 5:3; 7:16-21)
4. Using speech filled with sexual innuendo, explicit off-color comments, and dirty jokes (Eph. 5:4)
5. Engaging in physical contact that arouses sexual desire, which cannot be legitimately fulfilled (Pr. 7:13; 1 Th. 4:6)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. Read and review each of the points from *What Lust Is Not*. Why is it crucial for us as Christians to understand that these things are not sin? Why is it important to develop a sexual ethic from Scripture?
2. Read and review each of the points from *What Lust Is*. Why is it important to deal with this sin at the heart level and not simply by avoiding looking at things? Discuss.
3. Read and review each of the points from *Intentionally or Carelessly Exciting Lust in Others*. Why must we carefully think through how we dress or how we physically interact with others? How do we proceed with caution but also avoid becoming legalistic in these areas? Discuss.