

The Naked Truth About Lust

Matthew 5.27-32

Introduction: God created sex for His glory.

For this reason 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. Genesis 2.24-25

Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth. As a loving hind and a graceful doe, let her breasts satisfy you at all times; Be exhilarated always with her love. Proverbs 5.18-19

The problem is that because of our sinful natures we corrupt what God has created good and for His glory.

For why should you, my son, be exhilarated with an adulteress and embrace the bosom of a foreigner? Proverbs 5.20

Ultimately, it leads to the destruction of families – the most beautiful gift God has given us!

"It was said, 'WHOEVER SENDS HIS WIFE AWAY, LET HIM GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE'; but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for the reason of unchastity, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. Matthew 5.31-32

Many of us will never cheat on our spouses, and we may not divorce them to marry someone younger or sexier. Those of us who are single are probably thinking "I don't even have a wife or husband. I'm in the clear!" But remember, Jesus goes beyond the outward action and sees the deepest intentions of our hearts.

Because God created sex for His glory, we must redeem it from the corruption of sin.

How can we be free from sexual sin?

1. We must recognize the beginnings of sin.

"You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY'; but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. Matthew 5.27-28

- “Looks” is a present participle and refers to the continuous process of looking. In this usage, the idea is not that of incidental or involuntary glance but of an intentional and repeated gazing, with the sole purpose of lusting.
- It is not lustful looking that causes the sin in the heart, but the sin in the heart that causes the lustful looking.
- All sin begins with devaluing the glory of God.

A – Women: become satisfied with something other than God.

O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly; My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, In a dry and weary land where there is no water. Thus I have seen You in the sanctuary, to see Your power and Your glory. Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, my lips will praise You. So I will bless You as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul is satisfied as with marrow and fatness, And my mouth offers praises with joyful lips. When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches, Psalm 63.1-6

B – Men: it all begins with our eyes. We devalue women that were created in God’s image.

"I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl. Job 31.1(NIV

Pornography Statistics

- Porn is a \$13 billion business,
- In 1999 revenues from porn web-sites was 1.2 billion dollars, There are 100,000 porn websites and 200 new sites pop up everyday.
- There are more than 10,000 porn movies released every year and over 300 million videos are sold every year. (Only 260 million people in America)
- There are more porn outlets than McDonalds.
- 25% of porn sites have brand names (Barbie, Britteny Spears, Nintendo, disney, nba...) to attract hits from search engines.
- Over 75% of all internet users on line after 10 o'clock are viewing pornography. (The largest group viewing are boys between 13 and 18)

2. We must cut off the source of sin.

"If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. If your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off and throw it from you..." Matthew 5.29-30a

- “Stumbling block” comes from the Greek word “skandelon”... it was a word that came to mean the bait stick in an animal trap. It is something that trips people up, something which sends them crashing to destruction, something which lures them to their own ruin.

But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. James 1.14-15

- Wrong responses:
A – Can't just decide to "not think about it" *don't think about pink elephants***
B – Can't fool ourselves into thinking that it won't enslave us.

How do we cut off the source?

A – Radical amputation

- In Jewish culture, the right eye and the right hand represented a person's best and most precious faculties. The right eye represented one's best vision, and the right hand represented one's best skills.
- Jesus' point is that we should be willing to give up whatever is necessary, even the most cherished things we possess, if doing that will help protect us from evil.

But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts. Romans 13.14

B – Heart Surgery

- Just as the outward act of adultery reflects a heart that is already adulterous, the outward act of forsaking whatever is harmful must come from a heart that hungers and thirsts for righteousness.

"Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances." Ezekiel 36.26-27

How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word. With all my heart I have sought You; Do not let me wander from Your commandments. Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You... Turn away my eyes from looking at vanity, and revive me in Your ways. Establish Your word to Your servant, as that which produces reverence for You. Psalm 119.9-11, 37-38

3. Remember the consequences of sin.

...for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to go into hell. Matthew 5.30b

And Jesus wasn't beating around the bush here. He wasn't politically correct. He wasn't calling sin an addiction or a disease. He wasn't blaming sin on hereditary or genetics. He was saying, listen, if you chose to disobey God deliberately you will be punished. The book of Numbers says, "you be sure your sin will find you out." And so the next time you are entertaining sin you just remember that there are grave consequences for your sin.

Do you know who understands the long term consequences of sin? Jesus does. Now Jesus never sinned, but he felt the consequence of our sin on the cross. Sin is what killed Jesus. He felt the pain of sin. And that is how he can say to us here in Matthew 5 I know how terrible sin is. I felt it, I felt sin as the crown of thorns was placed on my brow. I felt sin as that whip grazed my flesh and made me bleed. I felt sin when that cross was placed on shoulder and I forced to walk through the streets. I felt sin when the guards spit on me and called me names. I felt sin when they stripped me naked in public. I felt sin when they drove those nails through my hands and my feet. I felt sin when they gambled for my only garment. I felt sin when I asked for something to drink but all they gave me was vinegar. I felt sin when my Heavenly Father hid himself from me. I felt sin when they pierced my side with a sword. Believe me Jesus, says I know the consequences of sin.

But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed. Isaiah 53.5

He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5.21