

Lust and its Answer

Matthew 5.27-30

Overview

- **Why is adultery wrong in the first place?**
 - God is Holy:
 - Transcendent/Separate
 - Pure: Has Done no wrong
 - God is Triune: 1 God in 3 Persons
 - Able to Love since He has someone to set His affections upon from all of eternity
 - His Nature, then demands that His love be:
 - Committed
 - Other Focused
 - On One (one God)
 - Of Distinction, not sameness
 - Father loves the Son, not one the same as the Father, etc.
 - For the purposes of Holiness/glory
 - Our love has to be the same
 - God is opposed to adultery because it lies about who He is
- **B. Adultery**
 - Marriage is covenantal, not contractual:
 - Contract says: “I take spouse for self, you better do it, Ill meet you halfway, I have to, it can be broken.”
 - Covenant says: “I give myself to my spouse, how can I serve you, Ill give you 100%, I want to, it can never be broken.”
 - Adultery is any sexual activity outside of the covenant of Marriage
 - You give in, you go to a place of death (Proverbs 5.3-5)
- **C. Lust**
 - Lust is not merely temptation, but acting wrongfully on temptation
 - Lust is not merely finding something attractive, but acting in a sinful way on that thing
 - When it moves from attraction to arousal is when it goes bad
 - Lust is a longing for disobedience:
 - Craving to consume sin
 - Desire to eat what is forbidden (something that is not yours)
 - Jesus exposes and condemns not only adultery, but the thing that leads to adultery (lust)
 - No adulterous affair has happened that did not begin with lust
 - God is Sovereign over the internal attitudes as well as the external actions
 - The Judgment of this activity is hell
 - Jesus commands maiming if that’s what it takes (he speaks figuratively):
 - He speaks in this way to communicate how awful our sin is to God:
 - How serious it is
- **D. Plan of Attack**
 - Understand we are at war...this is spiritual warfare

- Private Devotions: Holistic Prayer that is saturated with God and Bible reading and meditation:
- Meaningful Community involvement in the local church (bear burdens, serve & be served)
- Practical Helps:
 - Note what your triggers are
 - Memorize and Meditate on appropriate scriptures and quote in right times
 - Sing up for Covenant Eyes, X3watch.com, invite someone to look at your history
 - Bounce thoughts/eyes: Push them to things of greater worth
 - ANTHEM: John Piper's acronym
- Grace: Romans 5.20! Be more aware of Gods grace than your sin:
 - Trust God, not your obedience
 - Believe Christ's pleasure is better than sins pleasure

Questions

Discussion Starter: *Where does society encourage you to disobey Jesus words found in Matthew 5:27-30? Why do you think this is the case?*

1. Why would God consider adultery wrong? What does its activity say about God? What does it say about the gospel?
2. How does Proverbs present adultery (cf. Proverbs 5:3-14; 6:23-29; 7:10-23)?
3. Why would Jesus connect lust to adultery? What is lust? When does temptation turn to lust? Why is it important to understand the difference?
4. In what way does Jesus make this sin sound so serious? What does it say about Gods view of this sin?
5. What are some ways you see in the Bible to fight sin?
6. How can the community of faith help others fight this sin?
7. How is the Gospel of Grace the "nuclear arsenal" and not ourselves?
8. How do you live that out?

Accountability Question: *What are others triggers and how can one another pray and help?*