

MATTHEW

Heirs of the Kingdom

Matthew 5:27-32

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away.

Matthew 5:27-32

For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.³¹ “It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’³² But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.”

1. Disordered Desire: Adultery in the Heart

Matthew 5:27-30

Matthew 5:27-32

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’²⁸ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

1. Disordered Desire: Adultery in the Heart

Matthew 5:27-30



The monstrosity of sexual intercourse outside marriage is that those who indulge in it are trying to isolate one kind of union (the sexual) from all the other kinds of union which were intended to go along with it and make up the total union. The Christian attitude does not mean that there is anything wrong about sexual pleasure, any more than about the pleasure of eating.



It means that you must not isolate that pleasure
and try to get it by itself, any more than you
ought to try to get the pleasures of taste without
swallowing and digesting, by chewing things and
spitting them out again.

—C. S. Lewis

1. Disordered Desire: Adultery in the Heart

Matthew 5:27-30

Matthew 5:29-30

If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell.³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

1. Disordered Desire: Adultery in the Heart

Application

- Cut off the behaviors that feed lust (vv. 29-30)
- Pursue whole-hearted devotion to God (Matt. 5:8)
- Wage war against sin in the power of grace (1 Pet. 2:11)

2. Divorce: The Tragedy of Broken Covenants

Matthew 5:31-32

Matthew 5:31-32

“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’³² But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.”

2. Divorce: The Tragedy of Broken Covenants

Matthew 5:31-32

2. Divorce: The Tragedy of Broken Covenants

Application

- Jesus's teaching does not permit "no-fault divorce"
- Scripture also avoids a cruel rigidity (1 Cor. 7:15 Ex. 21:10)
- The wise application of biblical teaching guards against being either permissive or punitive

3. Covenant Faithfulness: Ours and the Lord's

Various Texts

3. Covenant Faithfulness: Ours and the Lord's

Covenant Faithfulness in Three Dimensions

- In marriage: fidelity
- For singles: chastity
- In the church: familial affection

1 Timothy 5:1-2 (NLT)

Never speak harshly to an older man, but appeal to him respectfully as you would to your own father. Talk to younger men as you would to your own brothers.² Treat older women as you would your mother, and treat younger women with all purity as you would your own sisters.

3. Covenant Faithfulness: Ours and the Lord's

Remember the Covenant Faithfulness of Christ, the Divine Husband (2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:25-32)

MATTHEW

Heirs of the Kingdom