



# LOVE NOT LUST

Discovering our Hidden Life In Christ



# Jesus' Standard In Sexual Desire

- **The Sermon on the Mount speaks to the realities of today.**
- **The Poison of Anger and Contempt**
- **The Destructiveness of Fantasized Desire**
- **Sex and violence are the two things that are repeatedly cited as the areas of our greatest problems, in life as in the media.**
- **As we have seen with murder, the mere fact that you do not commit adultery with someone, does not mean that in the domain of sexuality, your relation to that person or God is as it should be.**

# To Merely Think or Desire Is Not Wrong

- This is one of the more misinterpreted passages in scripture. The common interpretation is that to look at woman and have sexual thoughts, is the same as adultery
- ESV – vs.28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with **lustful intent**, has already committed adultery
- In other words, intentionally looking to lust or covet.

# To Merely Think or Desire Is Not Wrong

- ***Sin has entered the heart the moment one determines to seek it out.*** The moment a person even looks for that purpose, (how can I get them into bed?) adultery has already polluted the heart. This is the line between natural sexual attraction and the “coveting” prohibited by the Law: the Law forbids directing one’s desire towards that which is not lawful. Jesus does not condemn the desire, but the action taken on the desire.

# **But Actual Adultery Is Worse**

- Aristotle, who lived four centuries before Jesus, said, “There is no such thing as committing adultery with the right woman, at the right time, and in the right way, for it is...simply wrong.”**
- Today, it is thought that sex is right with anyone you love in the sense of a “romantic” involvement.**
- Sexual adultery will always begin with obsessive fantasied desire called, adultery of the heart.**

# The Emptiness of Sex Without Intimacy

- **“One of the most telling things about contemporary human beings is that they cannot find a reason for not committing adultery. Yet intimacy is a spiritual hunger of the human soul, and we cannot escape it. This has always been true and remains true today. We now keep hammering the sex button in the hope that a little intimacy might finally dribble out. In vain. For intimacy comes only within the framework of an individualized faithfulness within the kingdom of God. Such faithfulness is violated by “adultery in the heart” as well as by adultery in the body.” (*Willard, Dallas*)**

# **The Emptiness of Sex Without Intimacy**

- The current “Me-too” movement is a lamenting of the outcome of the sexual revolution of the 60’s**
- The problem of lust based sex is that it will often lead to abuse, anger and contempt.**
- This is why Jesus moves from danger of Anger and Contempt to Lust based fantasized desire.**
- For some, the hostility and contempt become necessary for sexual stimulation. For a few, it moves to torture and murder for stimulation**
- This is the futility of seeking intimacy without a Spirit transformed heart of love**

# **Is it Enough To Just Avoid Heart Adultery?**

- So, can we make Jesus' teaching about adultery in the heart a law that states what rightness is in the sexual domain?**
- Would we have a right heart if we did not commit adultery and did not visually indulge in absorbing lust?**
- To think we could, misses Jesus point, that is the condition of the heart that creates these problems.**

# How Do We Change The Heart?

- **To make a law that says, “Don’t look to lust,” and assume that obeying it is to be righteous, would be a mistake.**
- **The case of obsessive lusting illustrates a wrongness of the inner self that may still be there even if no outward act of adultery is committed.**
- **There have been men who have made it their goal not to look lustfully at women. To achieve that goal, they decided never to be around any women, even their mother or sisters**

# How Do We Change The Heart?

- **If you cannot see a women you cannot sexually lust for them. Does this make right sexually? Is this the way of The Kingdom Among Us?**
- **Indeed, the attempt to solve the problem of right sexual behavior by a law that governs specific behaviors is what Jesus is addressing in Matt.5:29,30**
- **Jesus is saying that if you think that laws can eliminate being wrong you would, cut off your hand or gouge out your eye so that you could not possibly do the acts the law forbids.**

# How Do We Change The Heart?

- **In their view, the law could be satisfied, and thus goodness attained, if you avoided sinning. You are right if you have done nothing wrong. You could avoid sinning if you simply eliminated the bodily parts that make sinful actions possible. Then you would roll into heaven a mutilated stump. (*Willard*)**
- **The problem is, the mutilated stump could still have a wicked heart. The question is not what you did or can do, it is what *would* you do, if you *could***
- ***For from within, out of the hearts of men proceeds evil thoughts, adultery, murder ... Mk.7:21-23***

# How Do We Change The Heart?

- **The goodness of the kingdom heart, by contrast, is the positive love of God and of those around us that fills it and crowds out the many forms of evil. From that goodness come deeds of respect and purity that characterize a sexuality as it was meant by God to be.**