



- Among many sexual sins addressed by the 7th commandment, today's pornography industry is more sadistic and pervasive than in previous history, a toxin that is seeping into popular culture at a huge social cost.
- The subject, the sin of adultery, is one of the hardest for us to hear because it is intensely personal, yet there is a spiritual battle raging in the war for sexual purity.

THE DEED (The Act of Adultery) v.27

- The 6th Commandment regarding murder protects the sanctity of life. The 7th protects the sanctity of marriage.
- Jesus re-stated the law because not everyone is convinced that adultery is a sin...any more than marriage is considered sacred. But God's law has never altered.
- Sexual hedonism is not new to our culture. In 1 Cor. 6, Paul challenged the common Greek notion that biological functions have no moral significance. (see v.12-20)
- The "one flesh" union is reserved for the covenant of marriage. Those who take it anywhere else betray the covenant of marriage, and God Himself.

THE DESIRE (The Deeper Issue of the Heart) v.28

- *The law is good*, preserving our lives from disorder. (1 Tim.1:8ff)
- The Pharisees and the teachers of the law competed in their strictness of observing the law, adding 1,521 emendations to God's 613 Laws! ("*the bleeding Pharisees*")
- Jesus got to the heart of the matter: "*anyone who looks at a woman lustfully...*", connecting it to the 10th commandment.
- The Greek word for "covet" is the same word for "lust," desiring to own/possess something you don't have.
- The Bible recognizes a woman's distinctive beauty. Women are not being told to cover up their beauty—but we make a distinction between looking attractive or being seductive.
- **Romans 13:9.** Love desires to serve a person; lust desires to use someone for self-gratification. Don't split hairs over the difference between *thinking* it & *doing* it. The consequences are different, but call it what it is, and deal with it truthfully.

(turn over)

THE DELIVERANCE (Desperate Times/Desperate Measures!) v.29-30

- Jesus states the Law, and brings His redemptive purpose. His law is a mirror, reflecting back to us His good design in contrast to our broken pieces and best efforts. He wants us to *know the truth*, because only *truth sets us free*. (John 8:32)
- First we agree with God. If He calls something sin, don't call it something else. Don't make excuses/shift the blame. We are also agreeing on what is right. (Hebrews 13:4)
- Second we confess our sin to God, and turn from *adulterous heart-desire*. Our refusal to confess and forsake sin will drive us from the blessings of His kingdom. (Proverbs 28:13)
- Third we are to desire and seek purity. God is looking for a restored and radical kind of purity.
- In v.29 & 30, Jesus' advice seems contradictory. How will physical dismembering help my heart-problem? Jesus is speaking *figuratively* here: GET SERIOUS about it! Stop pointing your finger at others! Deal with your own stuff!
- Purity. Either we agree with God about purity, or we don't. God longs to bring His blessing and life, for His church to *set the pace for our culture*, to be restored, and to be a restoring influence in a world being trashed by sexual sin.

John 8:1-11 ...KNOW THIS:

God's agenda has always been to deliver people from sin when they come for forgiveness. This woman was wrong, abused, set up, and in a bad place. Now her sin was exposed, her heart broken, her soul repentant, hopeful only for the grace of God. And that's where Jesus needed her to be. He forgave her, released her, and told her to *go and sin no more*.

Whatever you've done, you can come to Christ that way too. Ask His forgiveness, determine to take the steps to make right what you have wronged. Stop at nothing to seek the radical purity God desires for your blessing. Christ came to bring salvation, forgiveness for sin, and the resources to get right with God. God can cleanse your heart and bring His healing.

TAKE IT HOME...for personal reflection

1. Define 'lust' as Jesus uses the term in Matthew 5:28.
2. Review 1 Corinthians 6:12-20. What issues are discussed, and why? What is our best and immediate response to sexual temptation?
3. What life-saving wisdom in Job 31:1-12 can help us apply God's 7th Commandment to our lives?
4. Read John 20:19-23, Jesus gives His disciples a model of confessing to one another and pronouncing Christ's forgiveness. How is confession of sin to a brother or sister an important process in gaining victory over a pattern of sexual sin? (also: James 5:16)