

Matthew 5:27-32

27 "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. 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.

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Introduction

The Kingdom of Heaven Jesus describes is not a list of to-dos. It is a righteousness that is from the heart. It not only relates to God and us but defines our relationships with other people as well.

Sex pervades our culture. Jesus says that adultery and sexual immorality are founded in the heart and these thoughts are as evil as the acts themselves.

Sexual intimacy is the highest expression of intimacy and vulnerability a person can have. As much as it grants us ultimate intimacy, its misuse has horrifying consequences. This is why it is expressly reserved for the covenant relationship of love in marriage.

Sexual immorality dehumanizes people, even consensually, desiring the bodies while devaluing their minds and souls and spirits.

Sex is so in demand because it, in combination with marriage, is a shadow of the ultimate experience to come. It is a part of the gospel and points to the full extent of the love, commitment and intimacy that exists between Jesus, the husband and the groom, and us, His church and his bride. We have one Lover, one Husband, one whom we can be intimate and vulnerable with and still be accepted by.

With this in mind, we must remember not to be captivated by the shadow, but realize that the shadow points to the reality – God and us.

From this, Jesus proceeds to talk about divorce. He raises the bar far higher than the law, telling us that the marriage bond must be honoured above all things.

Our hearts need to be one and the need to be empowered. They become one when we see that God is our true lover.

Discussion

>>How do we deal with the fact that sin starts in the heart and is revealed in actions?

>>What price would you pay in this life to be fit for heaven?

>>What types of sexual immorality do people suffer from?

Explanation

>>Why did God give us sex and the institute of marriage?

>>How does marriage point to Jesus Christ?

>>Why are people so desperate for a sexual experience?

>>What does divorce do to the gospel?

Application

>>How can you cut your "hand" or "eye" off?

>>Know our weaknesses.

>>Tell somebody and fight our weaknesses together.

>>Don't even think about divorce.

>>Love your children.

>>Don't make light of marriage.

>>Devour the scriptures.