

A better description is idolatry involving lust. Lust is “to desire something strongly.” Lust is a sinful desire that somebody cultivates in their mind.

Explaining the Text: V27, Jesus is referring to the 7th Commandment from Ex. 20:14 which is referencing sexual immorality. V28, A lustful heart is also referenced is the 10th Commandment of coveting. It is not only lusting for a person who you can’t have but also desiring to take someone from another. V29-30, in our commitment to Christ we have a new loyalty. Our members are to be used for Christ, Col. 3:5.

Theological Implications: Jesus is giving New Covenant (NC) law. Jesus is defining a massive transition from Old Covenant (OC) to NC. Jesus is superseding Moses, requiring a heart of obedience. 1) Plucking the Eye and Cutting the Hand Off: happens internally in the heart. Rom. 12:2 calls us to be transformed by renewing our minds, replacing our minds with truth, starving the mind of things that lead to sin. 2) Salvation Connections to Christ’s statement in which He is talking about a real hell. Freely indulging in lust is a warning to believers and unbelievers.

Applications: to the Married and Unmarried Adults. Sexual activity only permitted within marriage. It is mutual ownership of each other, sex is not to be withheld. 1 Cor. 7:5, only deprive one another for a short period, then come back together to avoid temptation.

Principles for Dealing with Lust and Idolatry:

- 1) Lust is a sinful response to believing lies. You say to yourself, “This won’t hurt anyone,” “No one will find out,” We need to obey the commands of Phil. 4:8 and Eph. 4:22 to think of truth and lay aside the deeds of the old man and “lusts of deceit.”
- 2) Lust is about self-love- love is about others: love is serving your spouse and others. With issues of lust, pray for the person being lusted putting God’s truth in the forefront and acknowledging that the person isn’t yours to lust for.
- 3) Lust is wrapped up in other sins: from Stuart Scotts Exemplary Husbands, lust involves blaming others, lies, emotional distance, darkness, and it causes others to be hurt. Pro. 4:19, the way of the wicked is darkness not knowing what makes them stumble.
- 4) Lust is the enemy of whom you take no prisoners: Gal. 6:9, let us not weary in doing good. Fight to win making no concessions. Our hope is 1 Cor. 10:13, that no temptation that has overtaken us that is not common to man. Truth is the means of escape.
- 5) Lust is cultivated in spiritual isolation: all lusts are associated with spiritual isolation. Wanting to continue in sin will cause distance between you and others. Don’t seek isolation, Pro. 18:1. Iron sharpens iron, Pro. 27:17.
- 6) Lust is a drug like a temporary pleasure: run to Christ not to sin. Ps. 62:5-7, Christ is our rock. Our salvation rests upon Him. V8, Pour out your heart before Him.
- 7) Lust feeds on idleness and selfishness: Order your life. Fill your life with service, time with others, and service to God. The process of growth requires us to commit to His truth.

Relationship Lust with regards to Teens/Older Adult Children: How we guard our hearts:

- 1) From Lies: lies from the culture of the world. God defines marriage not the world. Biblical manhood seen as wicked by culture. Biblical womanhood is assaulted by feminism which has recently lost the ability to define what a woman is. Teenage dating is said to be normal, healthy, a part of life, and good for them.

- 2) Likelihoods occurring from lust: 1) Emotional and spiritual addiction. 2) Creates an antagonistic atmosphere between parents and children. 3) Prematurely breaks up families. 4) Creates an atmosphere for internal/external sexual immorality. 5) Teaches you to see opposite sex as an object of "my own" pleasure. 6) Distracts young men from pointing themselves in pursuits to be men. 7) It has the emotional effect of multiple divorces. 8) FACT: teenage romance causes 200K murders each year from abortions. Marriage is the grace of life, 1 Pet. 3:7. It is something to look forward to and prepare for.
- 3) "I Do!" Lists for Both Men/Women: 1) Don't awaken desire, Song 2:7, 3:5, 8:4. Let conversations with the opposite sex be disciplined. 2) Tame your tongue. If your tongue can't be controlled, if you still make excuses and can't have adult conversations, you are not ready for marriage, Pro. 16:23. 3) Learn and grow. Learn skills, serve others know Scripture, Pro. 6:6-11. 4) Make the relationship a family event. It affects everyone, be able to listen to wise council, Pro. 1:8.
- >> "I Do" list for Women: 1) Desire Sanctification and Christlikeness: SOS 1:5-6, outwardly she is darkened but inwardly she is lovely, V5. Be adorned with inner beauty of a quiet and gentle spirit, 1 Pet. 3:4-5. 2) Develop a Work Ethic: SOS 1:6, Pro. 31:13, not being idle, a godly woman is a worker and the result, Pr. 31:28, her family calls her blessed. 3) Defend your heart until the time is right: SOS 1:7, give your heart to one person. Keep from touching, guard your body, be "a wall." 4) Decide to follow your husband wherever he goes: a man willing to desire and hold only you to himself special. For two reasons: 1) God's created order, 1 Tim. 2:13 and for God's created purpose, Gen. 2:18. Submit to your husband, Eph. 5:22.
- >>"I Do" list for Men: SOS 3:7-11. 1) Be a man: SOS 3:7-8, men respect him. Solomon was a man of conviction, executing his brother Adonijah, 1 Kgs. 2:13. Take responsibility, take on a challenge, conquer things, live a life of achievement. 2) Be a leader: Solomon in 1 Kings 3:16-28 in his wise judgement. How to lead: Lead yourself by serving family and others. Learn about leadership from Scripture and other source. You are called to lead your wife and children. 3) Be a provider SOS 3:9-10, a man has things to offer that are needed for his family. Don't be lazy. 4) Be accountable: be willing to take instruction and wisdom from parents and others. Pursue godliness now at this time.
- >>A life pursuing Christ is a life not lived in lust and pleasure. It is pursuing holiness and Christlikeness and not lusts of various kinds. Pursue Jesus.

Further Discussion and Application

The sermon was full of applications. In conquering and waging war against lust, what things came to mind as you listened to the sermon. Write them down and begin to reorder your life in light of living for Christ. What will you have to give up and put off in your life?

What is your perspective on dating? On relationships? On roles for women and men? Do you disagree with the council given and demonstrated in these passages? Why do these ways properly honor God?

The lies of lust can be hard to see. How does the preaching of the word of God expose them? What was exposed to you?