

Rocks



Matthew 5:27-30

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You've heard it said, "Do not commit adultery." But I tell you, every man who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his thoughts.



Matthew 5:27-30

So if your right eye makes you sin, pull it out and throw it away, because it is better to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.



Matthew 5:27-30

And if your right hand makes you sin, cut it off and throw it away, because it is better to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go to hell.



Adultery

- What is it?
 - Any intentional activity between persons who are not married to each other that results in sexual gratification.



Adultery

- What's the problem with it?
 - Exodus 20:14 “Do not commit adultery.”
- Why?



Marriage – what is it?

One man and one woman, engaging in:

- lifelong companionship
- mutual help
- sexual relationship

(Source: Powers, *Marriage and Divorce*, 45)



Marriage – what makes it?

- Paper
 - legal documents, rings
- Promise
 - vow to be faithful
- Proof
 - quality of relationship

(Source: Janetski, “Return to Eden”)



Marriage – a misconception

- marriage is about **property**; that is, a husband **owned** his wife
- so adultery was essentially the same thing as stealing



Sex – common misconceptions

- passion
- performance
- pleasure
- position
- power



Lust

- What is lust?
 - Any thought about a sinful activity that results in sexual gratification.
- What's the problem?
 - Jesus wants us to **live a life free of lust.**



What's it about?

- Matthew 5:8
Blessed are the pure in heart,
because they will see God.



What's it about?

- The Ten Commandments were about marking out the people of Israel as God's own.
- The way he told them to show this was by their **purity**.



Understanding this Scripture

- **Practice:** “do not commit adultery”; stated positively: keep all sexual gratification for marriage
- **Principle:** purity from lust
- The reason for purity is our relationship with a **person:** God wants us to see him



Cutting it off

CUT OFF ITS
INFLUENCE
IN YOUR LIFE



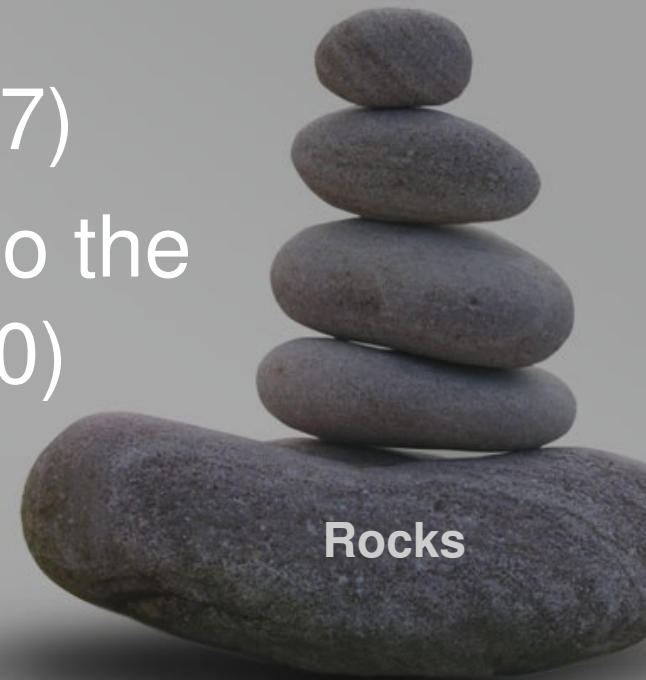
People who value purity ...

- Know the **goal** of purity
- **Plan** for their purity
- Value the purity of **others**
- **Evaluate** life with purity in mind
- Remember the **reward** of purity



Where are you sitting?

- Among the disciples?
 - Recognise your own inadequacy (Matthew 5:3)
 - Don't judge (Matthew 7:1-7)
 - Turn to Jesus when you do the wrong thing (1 John 1:8-10)



Where are you sitting?

- With the crowd?
 - Jesus has **great** expectations (Matthew 5:20; 16:24)
 - Jesus **longs** for you (Matthew 9:35-36)
 - Jesus can live **in** and **through** you (Galatians 2:19-21)

