

The Big Ten: How's Your Heart?

The first step to solving a problem is admitting that there is a problem. But it also helps to have a proper view of the problem....we need to solve OUR part. When was the last time you heard someone blaming themselves when they were in a bad situation?

People are selfish, their primary concern is how they feel, what they want. This becomes an issue in marriage. The issue is always with the other person....right? I mean, I haven't done anything wrong....I'm a saint afterall! Many people instead of serving their spouse by putting them first, they want to be served and they want to be first. That is when everything becomes the other person's fault.

This bleeds over into the bedroom. Most affairs take place because a person is unhappy with the way their spouse is treating them....so they go find someone that will treat them the way they deserve to be treated! Even if it's wrong.....

The seventh commandment is:

Exodus 20:14 (HCSB)

14 Do not commit adultery.

Similar to last week "do not murder", "do not commit adultery" seems pretty simple. This is one that on the surface, should be easy to follow. Don't have sex with anyone that is not your husband or wife!

This is God's design, it is what millions of people vow to do when they enter into marriage, and when they do enter into marriage, the Word says they are no longer two but become one flesh. They go from two separate spiritual beings to being united as a one spiritually.

This is the beginning of family. Unity between the husband and wife. It brings stability to the home. When a husband and wife are in unity there is a foundation set for the family and the building of the family should be more solid.

God says do not commit adultery. Don't do it! It messes things up....spiritually and emotionally. It brings ruin and destruction to the foundation of family. When have you ever heard of adultery having a positive effect on a family? I've heard of God working through it and something good coming of it but that good came from God, not the adulterous situation.

Proverbs 6:32 (HCSB)

32 The one who commits adultery lacks sense;
whoever does so destroys himself.

Adultery brings destruction on your family but also on yourself. No matter what the temporary satisfaction may be, the long term affect is destruction. The grass is NOT greener on the other side.

Not committing adultery is key to loving people, obviously your spouse but also the rest of your family, friends, coworkers, etc....basically all the people in your life who would be affected by it!

One of the worst things about adultery and a big reason it can destroy you, is that in committing adultery, many times several if not all of the other commandments are broken in the process.

You surely aren't putting God first, sex becomes an idol, if you are a Christian, you are not properly representing God's name, you aren't getting much rest, murdering your spiritual life and someone else's, dishonoring your parents/family name, commit adultery, may be stealing someone's spouse or at least their heart, there are probably some lies, and you obviously want something that's not yours! It's a no win situation!...

Consider King David, when he committed adultery with Bathsheba. He saw this beautiful woman who belonged to someone else and wanted her. This "man after God's own heart" surely wasn't putting God first here. He became fixated on this image of Bathsheba in his mind. He couldn't rest until he had her. He dishonored his family name with this premeditated sin. After finding out she was pregnant he tried to trick her husband into thinking it was his and when that didn't work, David had him killed. Then stole his woman for himself!

This is King David, mighty warrior, godly leader, walking in God's favor and he messed up.....big time. As you read the account it almost seems like he got away with it. But he did not. He had consequences to deal with and it did damage to his soul:

Psalm 51:2-3 (HCSB)

2 Wash away my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.
3 For I am conscious of my rebellion,
and my sin is always before me.

His sin was always before him. When he went to bed, he thought about it. When he woke up, he thought about it. When he looked at his "new wife", he thought about it. When he thought about God, he thought about it. He was very aware of what he had done it was always before him. It's why he asks God to create in him a clean heart and renew a steadfast spirit within him in vs 10.

It all started in his heart. Adultery begins in the heart, Jesus told us this....

Matthew 5:27-28 (HCSB)

27 “You have heard that it was said, Do not commit adultery. 28 But I tell you, everyone who looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

You see this world looks at sex like it’s just a physical act but it’s so much more than that. There are spiritual implications and if it’s not godly, then it’s demonic. You realize there is no other option?

It’s not “just sex” and it does matter what’s in your heart and mind in regards to other people. To even think of another person in a lustful way, meaning to have a desire for, long for, is the exact same spiritually as following through with the act of adultery.....because spiritually you have already done it.

The stupidest saying I’ve ever heard in my life is this, “it doesn’t matter where you get your appetite as long as you eat at home”. That my friends is a lie from the pit of hell and that’s where that lie may take you! It does matter where you get your appetite. It does matter who you have been looking at and what you have been thinking about those women or men.

Don’t think for a second that women don’t deal with lust as well. Maybe it’s more common for men but women deal with it too.

Pornography is demonic and people are viewing it at an unprecedented rate. The porn industry generates \$13 BILLION each year in the US alone. This is with the porn revenue declining 50% in the last 10 years due to the amount of free porn online.

And don’t think it’s just these unchurched heathens.....64% of Christian men and 15% of Christian women say they view porn at least once per month....and these are just the one’s who admit it.

It starts at an early age....9/10 boys are exposed to it before the age of 18 and 6/10 girls are.

Porn is a drug, it’s a drug that has long lasting effects on a person’s mind. It’s dangerous and whatever lies you tell yourself or others to try and justify it, it’s wrong in the eyes of God because it is adultery in your heart. Jesus said if you look upon another with lust in your heart you have already committed adultery. This doesn’t just happen through porn, it happens with the person on tv, in the magazines, at the mall or gas station.

Matthew 6:22-23 (HCSB)

22 “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. So if the light within you is darkness—how deep is that darkness!

When Jesus speaks of your eyes and light, He is saying that you should keep your eyes on God. If what you are looking to is God you will be filled with light (good). But if what you are looking to is

porn, models, celebrities, and other things you shouldn't, you will be filled with darkness (sin). You will hunger for what you feed on.

So what do we do? Jesus help us!

Matthew 5:29-30 (HCSB)

29 If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of the parts of your body than for your whole body to 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 the parts of your body than for your whole body to go into hell!

Now before people start getting pocket knives out....know that this is not a literal command. Jesus does not want us all walking around with one eye and one hand. This is a hyperbole, an intentional exaggeration. The intent is to show the seriousness of the sins of lust and evil desire.

Think about when people say "it's raining cats and dogs"....we all know it is not literally raining cats and dogs, that would be crazy. It means the rain is coming down so heavily that is is like cats and dogs are falling on our head. It just means it's raining hard, not "go pick out a free pet"

We know Jesus isn't actually advocating for self mutilation because it actually wouldn't even solve the problem since these sins originate in the heart. You'd just sin with the other eye, the other hand, and still have the same thoughts, it wouldn't deal with the root of the issue.

That is what Jesus tells us to do....deal with the root. What is the source, what is the origin of the problem....an unclean heart.

"If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away."

He intentionally says "right eye" because the right represents the place of honor and authority. And the eye speaks of the eyes of the mind. YOU have authority over the eyes of your mind.....and it's up to YOU to make sure your thoughts and focus are honorable.

If they are not....if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out! This means to draw out, root out. You are you root out those sinful thoughts and mindsets. You have authority over them.

2 Corinthians 10:5-6 (NKJV)

5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, 6 and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

Every single thought, idea, reasoning, philosophy, that goes against what the Word of God says, every one of them is a lie from the devil.

But YOU, if you are born again, if you have given your life to Christ, then you are not subject to those lies. You don't have to think that way, you don't have to continue to think sinful thoughts and ideas.

Jesus came to set the captives free. Who the Son sets free, is free indeed. This means if you are His, then YOU can take those thoughts captive because they don't enslave you, you have been FREED!

Gouging your eye out, cutting your hand off. These seem like extreme measures, but I'm here today to tell you that sin is extreme. Sin is dangerous and destructive and can cost you your life. So I think we extreme actions!

If you desire to be freed from the sin that is rooted in your heart. It's got to be cut off. There needs to be complete separation. Drastic measures must be taken.

If we were to take this literally, gouge out your eye, cut off your hand.....it would be painful, right? Well sometimes cutting the things out of your life that cause you to sin is painful. Sometimes you enjoy them and it's going to hurt to have them removed.

I guess, what you are willing to do just depends on how badly you want to be free. It may hurt to throw away all those magazines, videos, erotic novels, etc that fuel lust in the hearts of men and women.

It may cause pain every time you want to get on the internet and your husband or wife has to enter the password for you because you can't be trusted online alone.

It may hurt to not be able to watch that movie or show that you want to see so badly but you know you shouldn't see some of the scenes that are in it.

How bad do you want to be free?

Jesus said, "Whatever you need to do to get rid of sexual sin, do it." If there is an inappropriate relationship at work, maybe even change jobs.

I read this from Pastor Erwin Lutzer: I told a man that one day when he said he was falling in love with someone at work who wasn't his wife. I said, "Change jobs." He said, "Oh, I can't do that. I have a wife and children to support." I said, "What would you rather do? Change jobs or have your right eye cut out and your arm cut off?" "Oh," he said, "I'd rather change jobs." I said, "You are lucky. Jesus said that you should be willing to cut out your eye and to cut off your hand, even if that were necessary, if that were needed.

What are you willing to do to save your own life?

WORSHIP TEAM

Adultery starts with lust in the heart.....

Proverbs 23:26 (HCSB)

26 My son, give me your heart,
and let your eyes observe my ways.

It should be a continual act to give Jesus your heart. We are to hate what is evil and cling to what is good. Our hearts should be set on eternity, the things of God.

Colossians 3:1 (NIV)

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

The question today is “how’s your heart?” Are there things that need uprooted today? Especially in the place of sexual immorality, lust, adultery. How you respond will show you the state of your heart today.

God sees your ways. The Spirit knows your heart, your motives, your intentions, your passions and desires. There is no fooling the Holy Spirit.

Are you willing to take measures today so extreme that they may be as painful as gouging out an eye or cutting off a hand?

God knows your situation and He says to look to Him. He says it would be better you enter His Kingdom with one eye, one hand. No matter the pain, no matter the cost, it’s better.

There is grace and forgiveness today at the feet of the Savior. But just as King David did, it comes during a time of humility, brokenness, and honesty before God. Will you seek Him today?