

“THE CHRISTIAN RIGHTEOUSNESS: AVOIDING LUST”

NEW BEGINNING COMMUNITY CHURCH

DR. R. GARY ASHLEY

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Sermon one: Jesus revealed four characteristics related to GOD.

Sermon two: Jesus revealed four characteristics related to MAN.

Sermon three: Jesus exposed the Christian’s INFLUENCE on the world.

Sermon four: Jesus revealed his relationship to the O.T. LAW.

Sermon five: Jesus revealed the CHRISTIAN’S relationship to the O.T. Law.

Sermon six: Jesus revealed the meaning of Christian righteousness: avoiding ANGER!

Sermon seven: Jesus revealed the meaning of Christian righteousness: avoiding LUST!

Introduction: Beginning in Matthew 5:21, Jesus give SIX examples of Christian righteousness: avoiding ANGER, avoiding LUST, fidelity in MARRIAGE, honesty in SPEECH, NON-retaliation, and ACTIVE love.

Text: **Matthew 5:27–30** “*You have heard the commandment that says, ‘You must not commit adultery.’²⁸ But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.²⁹ So if your eye—even your good eye—causes you to lust, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.³⁰ And if your hand—even your stronger hand—causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.*

TWO PARTS

I. THE LESSON TO BE LEARNED. **Matthew 5:27–28** “*You have heard the commandment that says, ‘You must not commit adultery.’²⁸ But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*

A. This passage is based on the SIXTH command! **Exodus 20:14** “*You must not commit adultery.*”

B. The religious leaders were ignoring the TENTH command. **Exodus 20:17** “*You must not covet your neighbor’s house. You must not covet your neighbor’s wife. . .*”

K.T.: The religious leaders had reduced adultery to the ACT alone.

C. In the previous passage, Jesus said ANGER was paramount to murder; in this passage says LUST is paramount to adultery.

Summary: Whatever is immoral in ACTION is also immoral in LOOK and thought/imagination.

D. What does the Bible actually teach about SEX?

1. The only legitimate use of sex is between a male and female within a MARRIAGE union. **Genesis 1:28** *Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. . .”* **Genesis 2:24** *This explains why a man leaves his father*

and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.

Matthew 19:4–5 “*Haven’t you read the Scriptures?”* Jesus replied. “*They record that from the beginning ‘God made them male and female.’⁵ And he said, ‘This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.’* Read the Song of Solomon.

2. There are illegitimate uses of SEX.

a. HOMOSEXUALITY: **Leviticus 18:2** “*Do not practice homosexuality, having sex with another man as with a woman. It is a detestable sin.*” **Jude 7** *And don’t forget Sodom and Gomorrah and their neighboring towns, which were filled with immorality and every kind of sexual perversion. Those cities were destroyed by fire and serve as a warning of the eternal fire of God’s judgment.* **Romans 1:26** *That is why God abandoned them to their shameful desires. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other.*

b. FORNICATION: **Deuteronomy 22:23–24** “*Suppose a man meets a young woman, a virgin who is engaged to be married, and he has sexual intercourse with her. If this happens within a town,²⁴ you must take both of them to the gates of that town and stone them to death.*”

c. ADULTERY: **Exodus 20:14** “*You must not commit adultery.*”

Summary: Whatever is immoral in ACTION is also immoral in LOOK and thought/imagination.

II. THE APPLICATION TO BE APPLIED. **Matthew 5:29–30** *So (therefore) if your eye—even your good eye—causes you to lust, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.³⁰ And if your hand—even your stronger hand—causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.*

K.T.: In this passage, Jesus explains the VICTORY over sexual sin.

A. Realize the severity of the SITUATION.

1. If your dominant eye causes you to sin, PLUCK it out.
2. If your dominant hand causes you to sin, CUT it off.

B. Realize the severity of the CONSEQUENCES.

1. It is better to pluck out your EYE than go to hell.
2. It is better to cut off your HAND than go to hell.

C. If your eye causes you to sin, don’t LOOK. **Job 31:1** “*I made a covenant with my eyes not to look with lust at a young woman.*

D. If your hand causes you to sin, don’t TOUCH.

E. If your feet cause you to sin, don’t GO.

F.T.: Members of Jesus’ counterculture maintain sexual PURITY.