

Matthew 5:27-37

Sex, Commitment and Hope

What does sex signify? Pastor Tim Chaddick teaches from [Matthew 5:27-37](#), where Jesus warns of the damage that consumeristic sexuality has on our relationships with people and with God.

Sexuality is a huge topic. Most of you have heard my story. I was promiscuous as a teen, but as the years went on, I saw the destructive nature of situations. When I saw some of my friends, I had to ask-this can't be right.

What does sex mean? In our culture sex means way too much or way too little. Casual sex-have get, do, make. Consumer attitude. Rooted in performance. Go somewhere else for a better partner. Or we make it too important. Recognize it's power over people's lives. You're not having sex? We'll help you fix it. People want to view sex as casual.

We must listen to Jesus. Sexual ethics is not just about what you do or don't do, but about character, condition, what you do about this life. IN THIS LIFE ALL SYMPHONIES FEEL UNFINISHED. We always look for romance or SEX to finish the symphony in our lives.

We live in an age of post-sex revolution and an age of individualism. Choices that are based within ourselves will make us happy. Our society is shaped with everything sexual and selfish. We all take our cues from a script. People usually are looking for a story. We use society to script and shape our goals and behaviors. A girl will be wondering what a good girlfriend does at four months. A man's looking at porn, he takes his cue from what he sees on the computer, in the movies, in the news.

G.K. Chesterton says, "Every man walking into a brothel is really looking for God." Most films and most stories are climaxing on a romantic story, and the rest is prologue and epilogue. With teenagers there is a whole new genre for teens on paranormal sex. All hinges if two people get together. Maybe you've seen the breakdown of the model of marriage. The Bible says inappropriate sex doesn't lead to freedom but to bondage and destruction.

The people in the first century, the sexual condition was the same as today. The sex in Scripture represent the idols of every culture. The failure of the church-how many times pastors and leaders fall, they were sinning in morality. One church I visited in the Bay Area, I confessed my sin as a young man. The pastor was exhorting me, and then I find out he was having an affair with his secretary. We need to repent on behalf of the church.

Some of you are not Christians. We live in a pluralistic society. Don't control others, but point people to Jesus. You would see the beauty of Jesus and what the Bible says

about sex and marriage. Some of you believe in Jesus and reject what He says about sex. You make your own Jesus in your own image. Many of us, seeking to follow Jesus. For everyone of us, we deal with a longing and desire to be happy. But we need to be healed of pain.

Jesus' sex teaching will lead us to a whole new way of being human. Why does Jesus hit lust and divorce so hard? He exposes the heart of every person in Sermon on the Mount. Sex is sacred.

Fire is a metaphor. Fire is desire. Fireplace is a metaphor for God's desire and purpose. Some people in traditional are all fireplace and no fire. Some never talk about sex. They slip you this awkward book about celebration in the bedroom in premarital counseling. Most people talk about fire. Jesus says what can we do with that fire in the context of marriage.

Permanence of marriage, What we do with our bodies matter. Genesis God makes man and woman two become one person. Sex is for covenant union. Sex involves pleasure, but is not its primary purpose. Man and woman brought together. Four marks of covenant marriage. Contract is designed an individual,

***Covenant marriage involves: personal commitment, public commitment, permanent commitment, private consummation. Reflecting deep oneness in marriage. Get naked symbolized the culmination of relationship. For this life-long commitment. It's an expression of that bond. Covenant adhesive between man and wife.

Notice something about love. Love wants to promise something. Love wants to vow. Publically recognize your love lifelong commitment to a person. We in our day and age are so consumeristic, lens of experience. Don't like this experience we get out. Within that covenant commitment, openness, oneness in security. Sacrificial love delights in the good of the other. Promising sacrificial love. I, Gary, promise to feel a certain level of erotic stimulation. No. Love you no matter what.

As we move into NT, pointing deeper-between Christ and His church. You are in union and communion with Christ. Paul says in Ephesians you need to understand this mystery. If you choose to live in singleness, my identity is showing but married to Jesus. Want to reveal Christ.

Divorce-v. 31 Jesus mentions divorce/ Whenever divorce subject arises. Jesus deals with permanence in marriage. Some guys divorce for whatever reason, essentially pushes woman into adultery. They are concessions? They are a last resort. Concession and abandonment. God hates divorce-disregarding God's design.

Lust. Everyone who looks at a woman has adultery in his heart. Better that you lose one of your members, than be cast into hell. Seventh commandment. Any sex

outside of marriage gets all the way down into the heart. You've already committed adultery in your heart. External and internal sin. Jesus affirms "What God has joined together, let no man put asunder." If God has made us in His image, we return the favor (Voltaire).

Jesus says you are not defined by what we desire. Self-denial becomes the new immorality. Sexual activity even beginning in the heart, is breaking the commandment. Sex is promising with the body and not the rest of your life.

Ronald Roheiser says, "by its very nature, sex speaks of total giving trust, total commitment. Unconditionality of one's sharing of one's soul. Without it, sex is a lie." Christian marriage is a binding covenant-future love. We all want to keep all of our options open.

What is lust? Lust is not sexual desire. The spark when appropriately fans the flame-to live for something greater. That initial spark of attraction is not adultery. Lust begins with a decision of the will not to direct the desire in the right way. But in secret heart and mind, we show ourselves to be guilty and worthy of judgment. That look "the look" you decide to take that fantasize-look for more opportunities to encounter that person. Lust using the person. Become a sex object. Think of how destructive-humanity, dignity, honor. Not your own individual gratification. We live in the porn capital-Los Angeles. We agree porn is wrong. Reflect further how destructive it is to others Porn teaches you that people say yes to every sexual encounter. It functions just to feed your fire. "Women always say yes." "Women should say yes to what men want them to do." It consumes-masturbation teaches you that sex is for yourself. "It's sex with someone I love" said Woody Allen. The issue is where it leads, your state of heart and the way it affects your daily life.

Has all kinds of effects. We live in the society of the spectacular. Epic, amazing. What you should get out of them. Many men have in your minds 1,000's of images and scenes that shape what you expect of others. We devalue those who are devastatingly beautiful. Think about all of those people who look like second class citizens.

Taking advantage of others lonely, driven by lust. Think of the devastation in the lives of those people like in abuse or rape.

There is more than one path to adultery. Not visual? It may be relational. Another kind of spark-it may begin with a sincere desire for love, acceptance and meaning. Leads to quest for fulfillment of the love that they really need. Men will usually trade love for sex, women trade sex for love. "God, I'm choosing to build my life on sex and not you." This theme is echoed throughout scripture.

Paul in 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8:

Living to Please God

4 As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. ² For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

³ It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; ⁴ that each of you should learn to control your own body^[a] in a way that is holy and honorable, ⁵ not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; ⁶ and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister.^[b] The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. ⁷ For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. ⁸ Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit." NIV

There are two words in that passage: Transgress, defraud-overstepping the boundaries that God has laid down. Indicates a violation of trust. "Wrong" also can mean "exploit" ...Paul said to the church. Those who use the familiarity of Christian community for your own sexual gain must stop. It happened then and it happens now. We are brothers and sisters in Christ who use that familiarity in Christian community for your own sexual gain. See how it involves community? Are you not a predator? We are to be warned: 1. These things will be judged by God 2. They are the opposite of the Xn life. 3. To disregard these actions as sin is to disregard God Himself.

Men are most manly when you show restraint and respect. We are all called to represent Christ as the church. Maybe marriage is hard, you are fantasizing, maybe you have taken steps away. You don't need a new partner, you need a new way to view marriage.

Jesus uses hyperbole. Cut off your hand. Sin must be dealt with radically. We are all in different stages of life. How are you dealing with these areas. Don't go to certain places, watch certain things, cut out anything that will draw you away from His model. These destructive cycles can be broken. Start with confession. Getting it out in the open. "Lord, I need your help." These practices to abstain re-train how you think and live. This is idolatry.

If you say, "You can't live without it" it will feel like you're cutting off a hand. There will be pain. Good news, it is part of going into your life. It begins in the heart. You can throw out your computer, etc. Where do we get a new heart? Jesus...Jesus says, "I have come to cleanse you." "I want you to be with me, to live in the way that I've called you to live." This is what Jesus gives you. Cleanse you to the core.

Integrity. This is Jesus' compassionate call to integrity: celebrate singleness, purity in marriage. One is not better than the other. If you are single, the Bible does not say you are less. You belong to Jesus. It's bound up in Jesus' Christ. Jesus turns into people to passionate commitment. Integrity, purity and chastity.

Chastity has to do with all experience...to be chaste experience things reverently. Respect, reverence and patience. integrity. All sin is irreverence. Chaste do not let impatience, irreverence, violate something in others.

v. 33-37-Jesus says, " You don't need swear-bring into question everything else you've ever said." God wants to create a committed heart within you. It depends on what you love the most. Your sexual desires are not your deepest desires. Passion driving you to complete your unfinished symphony. The way back for all of us, is the cross of Christ. Our rest and satisfaction is in Him.

Romans 8: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? This is Christ's commitment, vow to love you. "I loved you when you were in your sin and your shame."