

## Who is an Adulterer? Part 2

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study

Matthew 5:27-30

- **Holiness** is described as the moral condition of God, people, things, places, and time. It is that which is consistent with God and His character. On the other side, it is threatened by impurity. It is to be “set apart,” “sanctified,” Other synonyms include: “to divide,” “to dedicate,” “severely dedicate; put under ban,” and “contribute, devote.” Antonyms are “profane, desecrate,” and “betray; commit sacrilege.” Personal holiness could be defined as “complete conformity in all things great and small alike, to the Holy Will of God; being at one mind with God in all the judgments *of the mind, in all outgoings of the life, agreeing with God’s estimate of things.*”
  - **“The Struggle is Real!”** is a saying of modern slang. It can be applied to almost anything: saving money, exercising, eating right, marriage, etc. Without much doubt, it also applies to holy living. Living that honors God. Believers are easily drawn away mentally, emotionally, and physically from the Lord. There is a false sense of victory (that is short-lived) when we first become Christians. The Lord will solve all our problems, including sin. It will now be easier to live.
  - We are supposed to believe that all sinful habits, fleshly lusts, gratifications, pride, and shameful thoughts will be banished from the consideration set of our behavior with our salvation in Christ. If only it were that easy. Instead, we sin daily.
- What is the Christian’s antidote to sin? The Bible never offers a soft answer or easy solution. Instead, it is confrontational, harsh, decisive, and clear about sin: It must be put to death. What is Sin? Sin is any failure to conform to God’s moral law in act, attitude, or nature.<sup>1</sup>

### I. The Act (Matthew 5:27)

- A. The protection of the sanctity of marriage (**Exodus 20:14**, *You shall not commit adultery.*)
  - 1. The serious nature of the offense (**Leviticus 20:10**, *“If a man commits adultery with the wife of his neighbor, both the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.”*)
  - 2. When adultery is chosen, it is a decision to despise God’s name and His law.
    - a) For clarity, God has ordained the sexual relationship to be between a husband (male) and a wife (female). Any sexual activity outside of that boundary is immoral and against God’s law.
- B. Dangers of Sex outside of Marriage (Proverbs 6:23-35)
  - a) Deceitful Flattery (Proverbs 6:24)
  - b) Lustful Thinking (Proverbs 6:25)
  - c) Dangerous Pursuit (Proverbs 6:26)
  - d) Scorched Innocence (Proverbs 6:27-29)
  - e) Unjustifiable Need (Proverbs 6:30-32a)
  - f) Unending Reproach (Proverbs 6:32b-35)

### II. The Craving (Matthew 5:28)

- A. **“I,”** say – Jesus puts Himself above the prevailing Jewish tradition of the religious elite.
- B. **“Looks”** – *blepō* – to perceive with attention; direct one’s gaze; intentional not accidental; repeated not a one-time event.
- C. **“with lustful intent”** – a goal or action.
- D. Jesus is speaking to the intentional looking with the purpose of lusting. It is looking to fulfill a lustful desire. It can apply to pornography, a tv show, or any another situation where our lustful gaze may be satisfied. Model homes, new car showrooms,
  - 1. It is not looking that causes adultery. He has committed adultery in his heart.
  - 2. It is sin in the heart that causes lustful looking
- E. Jesus is not speaking of unexpected and unavoidable exposure to sexual temptation.

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1. **2 Samuel 11:1-4**, David was not at fault for seeing Bathsheba. He sinned when he gazed and dwelled upon her.
  2. “*Sow a thought and reap an act. Sow an act and reap a habit. Sow a habit and reap a character. Sow a character and reap a destiny.*”

### III. The Mortification (Matthew 5:29-30)

- A. The figure of speech – one way we know this is because, in a literal sense, it is incompatible with what Jesus has been saying. Sin is a heart problem and not a body problem. The Lord is proposing amputation or blindness as a solution to sin.
  1. It is the separation from sinful impulses that Jesus is calling for. In other words, don’t go there;
    - a) **Matthew 18:8-9**, *And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. 9 And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.*
  2. “*Causes to sin*” – *skandalizō* – Anything that traps us. Trips us (stumble)
    - a) It is hyperbole, a deliberate exaggeration. Sin must be dealt with radically and definitively.
    - b) We must walk circumspectly.
      - (1) Controlling what is around us. Where we go. What we do. What we watch and read. The company we keep. The conversations we engage in.
- B. What does it mean to mortify sin (John Owen, “*Be killing sin, or it will be killing you.*”)
  1. Walk in the Spirit - **Galatians 5:16**, *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. Galatians 5:24-25*, *And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.*
  2. Exercise Self Control as a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:23) –
    - a) **1 Corinthians 9:25-27**, *Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. 26 So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. 27 But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.*
  3. Make a covenant with your eyes - **Job 31:1**, “*I have made a covenant with my eyes; how then could I gaze at a virgin?*” **Job 31:7-8**, *If my step has turned aside from the way and my heart has gone after my eyes, and if any spot has stuck to my hands, 8 then let me sow, and another eat, and let what grows for me be rooted out. Job 31:9-11*, “*If my heart has been enticed toward a woman, and I have lain in wait at my neighbor’s door, 10 then let my wife grind for another, and let others bow down on her. 11 For that would be a heinous crime; that would be an iniquity to be punished by the judges;*
  4. Commit to not wasting time on worthless things - **Psalms 119:37-38**, *Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways. 38 Confirm to your servant your promise, that you may be feared.*
  5. Commit to spiritual maturity - **2 Timothy 2:22**, *So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.*
  6. Be a fast and life-long repentant **1 John 1:5-10**, *This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*
  7. Meditate in God’s word - **Psalms 119:11**, *I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.*