



All Christians' Fellowship International

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Study to show "The Way of True Life." Bible Study Outline

TOPIC: **God's Design Protected**
TEXT: **Matthew 5:27-30**

Instructions: - *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone can participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone equal opportunity to participate.*

Introduction: "I wasn't looking for sex when Frank and I first became friends. Talking to a thoughtful man about my feelings was just so good. We could talk so easily. He made me feel good about myself. Dave (my husband) hadn't listened to anything I said in months." This is a common beginning to the story of a destroyed marriage. God's design for a permanent, exclusive, one-flesh relationship is under constant attack. In Matthew 5, Jesus reinforces God's protection of his design and the seriousness of sin. Read Matthew 5:27-30.

Discussion Questions:

1. We think of rules as limiting our freedom. Think of a rule your parents made that you thought was unnecessary, but you now see was really for your protection. What changed your thinking? Discuss.
2. Reflect on our struggle with sin and the sexual temptations around us in the world of today. To what extent can we subdue our desire to be pure in God's sight? Discuss.
3. How does Jesus' attitude toward adultery differ from our culture's attitude? Discuss.
4. What kinds of behavior are prohibited by the command "Do not commit adultery"? Discuss.
5. People usually give reasons for their adultery: "We love each other," "I don't love my wife anymore," "My spouse doesn't meet my needs." Why are there no exceptions given to the command against adultery?
6. Jesus' definition of adultery includes lustful looks and thoughts (v. 28). We can't prevent evil thoughts from coming to our minds, but we do choose what we do with them. What is the difference between being tempted by a lustful thought and committing adultery in our hearts?
7. What is the difference between lust and God-given sexual desires?
8. In what ways are the eye and hand avenues to sexual temptation (vs. 29-30)?

9. Obviously, gouging out an eye or cutting off a hand would not remove our ability to lust. How does Jesus intend us to apply his commands in verses 29-30?

10. How might how we dress; conversation, and lifestyle be a source of temptation to someone of the opposite sex? Can this be prevented in the Church? Discuss.

11. How does Jesus' teaching here make flirting or trying to make a spouse jealous off-limits?

12. How can a couple protect their marriage against a third person who flirts with or pursues one of them?

13. How does God's command for faithfulness in marriage show his loving concern for our highest good?

14. How appropriate is it to list the qualities that first attracted you to your spouse and make a date with him/her so you can read your lists to each other and express appreciation for every positive contribution your spouse has made to you? Discuss.