

Leaving a Legacy of Love
Part 4: A Loving Fidelity
Matthew 5:27-30

I. The Design

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’”
Matthew 5:27 (NIV)

- We cannot compartmentalize physical relations. God designed intimacy to include **spiritual** and **emotional** dimensions as well.

¹³You say, “Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both.” The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

1 Corinthians 6:13

- My body is not mine to do with as I please. It also belongs to the **Lord** and my **spouse**.

¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? ... ¹⁷But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit. ... ¹⁹Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies. 1 Corinthians 6:15,17,19-20

³The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. ⁴The wife does not have authority over her own body but yields it to her husband. In the same way, the husband does not have authority over his own body but yields it to his wife. ⁵Do not deprive each other except perhaps by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

1 Corinthians 7:3-5

II. The Desire

“But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” Matthew 5:28

- To “look lustfully” literally means to look intently with the goal of satisfying your desire. **Noticing** beauty is not sinful. Fantasizing about it is.

III. The Drastic Deliverance

²⁹“If your right eye causes you to stumble, 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. ³⁰And if your right hand causes you to stumble, 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 go into hell.”
Matthew 5:29-30

- Jesus is not advocating physical mutilation as a way of dealing with lust, but He is teaching us that sin must be dealt with immediately and **radically**.

To be delivered:

1. Prepare for it

I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified. 1 Corinthians 9:27 (NLT)

2. Replace it

Now flee from youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

2 Timothy 2:22 (NASB)