



Mid-Week

**Bible Study and Prayer
Wednesdays 6:45pm – 8pm**



Good Hope Baptist Church

Pastor Josh Franklin

The Second Look (Exposing Adultery in the Heart)

Matthew 5:27-30 (NKJV) ²⁷ "You have heard that it was said to those of old, '*You shall not commit adultery.*' ²⁸ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

Carl Zimmerman, a Harvard University sociologist, once studied the rise and fall of every major empire in world history. More specifically he traced what happened to the family in each of these empires. He concluded that families go through three phases, the last occurring just before each major empire fell apart. In his book *Family and Civilization*, he listed these characteristics of families in their final phase:

- Marriage lost its sacredness, and alternative forms of marriage were advocated.
- Parenting became more difficult.
- Adultery was celebrated, not punished.
- Illicit perversions abounded, including bestiality, but especially incest and homosexuality.^a

America is certainly one of the great “empires” of history. Do Zimmerman’s observations on the family send a shiver down your back as they do mine? Does your concern become more urgent when you realize that his book was published in 1947—more than half a century ago?

Media Giant, Ted Turner, in Newsweek magazine, once said, “If you're only going to have 10 rules, I don't know if adultery should be one of them.”

Hebrews 13:4 - Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

Lies about Lust and Sex^b (with the Scriptures that answer his accusations):

1. Sex is OK as long as you love each other. God wants you happy. (Heb. 13:4; 1 Cor. 6:18-20 TLB)
2. People get away with adultery. ([Proverbs 5:3-5](#); [Proverbs 5:8-11](#)).
3. Lust is not a big deal (Job 31:11-12 NLT)
4. Too much purity will keep me from seeing and enjoying beauty. ([Matthew 5:8](#); [Psalm 11:7, ESV](#); [Isaiah 33:17](#))
5. I can't control my sex drive. ([1 Thessalonians 4:3-6](#))
6. A little fantasizing doesn't hurt anybody. (Matt. 5:27-30)

^a Carl Zimmerman, *Family and Civilization* (New York: Harper and Row, 1947).

^b Joshua Harris “Not Even a Hint”, appendix.

7. Looking at a few pornographic pictures won't affect me. ([Proverbs 6:25-27](#); [Psalm 101:3](#))
8. Radical action against sin isn't necessary ([Matthew 5:29-30](#); [2 Timothy 2:22](#))
9. God made you this way. Go ahead and give in to your desires. (1 Cor. 6:9-11)

Why We Believe the Lies About Adultery

1. We have changed the vocabulary, and softened the attitude about adultery – it's an "affair", not sin.
2. We are ignorant of God's truth. In most homes, God's Word is grossly neglected; adults ignore it entirely.
3. People want to be "emancipated" and "free". They are taught through the media and the culture to assert their right to self-expression.
 - **Adultery in Soap Operas** - In daytime soap operas, percentage of sexual references to partners who are not married or not married to each other: 94.

C.S. LEWIS said, "If you lust after ham and eggs, you've already committed breakfast in your heart."

How to Stay Faithful to the Finish

1. Realize that God's Guardrails are For Your Protection.

Ps. 119:9 (NASB) - How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping *it* according to Your word.

Pr. 5:15-18 (NKJV) - Drink water from your own cistern, And running water from your own well. Should your fountains be dispersed abroad, Streams of water in the streets? Let them be only your own, And not for strangers with you. Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice with the wife of your youth.

2. Play the Movie to the End. See the Consequences

Pr. 6:32 (NKJV) - Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; He who does so destroys his own soul.

Pr. 6:26-29 - For by means of a harlot a man is reduced to a crust of bread; And an adulteress will prey upon his precious life. Can a man take fire to his bosom, And his clothes not be burned? Can one walk on hot coals, And his feet not be seared? So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife; Whoever touches her shall not be innocent.

"I heard about a counselor who asked the question, "What effect will my actions have if I go through a door called Desire?" He decided to write them down. He said, If I go through that door...

- I will grieve the One who redeemed me.
- I will drag His sacred name through the mud.
- I will have to look Jesus in the eye one day and give an account of my actions.
- I will inflict untold hurt on my wife, who is my best friend and who has been faithful to me.
- I will lose my wife's respect, love and trust.
- I will hurt my beloved children.
- I will destroy my example and credibility.
- I might lose my wife and children forever.
- I will shame my family.
- I will lose my own self-respect. (Though God could forgive me, could I forgive myself?)
- I could form memories and flashbacks that plague future intimacy with my spouse.
- I could reap the consequences of diseases.
- I could cause a pregnancy that would be a lifelong reminder of my sin.
- I could invoke lifelong shame and embarrassment on myself."^c

"John's marriage was stale. The "passion" was gone. So when Sue began flirting with him at the office, he was on shaky ground. What could be the harm in flirting back, if it made him feel alive? Or, so he thought. A little flirting led these two down a path to a predictable destination. They had an affair. Eventually John's wife found out. Hurt and outraged, she kicked John out and filed for divorce. Now he lives in a dumpy apartment, because he can't afford to pay for two nice homes. Most of his paycheck goes for alimony and child support. The worst part of it is that John

^c p. 176, Ron Mehl, Ten(der) Commandments

can no longer see his kids every day. He misses them terribly and would do anything to get them back. He should have thought about that before he convinced himself that nothing was wrong with a little office flirtation.”^d

3. Work Hard to Keep the Home Fires Burning Bright.

I Cor. 7:3-5 (NKJV) - 3 Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. 4 The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. 5 Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

- Love your spouse for who they are today.
- Don't believe the grass is greener on the other side.

4. Win the Battle of Your Mind, EARLY.

James 1:13-15(NKJV) Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. **But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own lust and enticed. Then, when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is finished, brings forth death.**

Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV) - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Proverbs 23:7 (NKJV) For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.

5. Make Personal Policies that Keep your relationships in check.

Eph. 5:3, "But among you there must **not be even a hint** of sexual immorality."

Prov 5:1-8 My son, pay attention to my wisdom; Lend your ear to my understanding, **2** That you may preserve discretion, And your lips may keep knowledge. **3** For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey, And her mouth is smoother than oil; **4** But in the end she is bitter as wormwood, Sharp as a twoedged sword. **5** Her feet go down to death, Her steps lay hold of hell. **6** Lest you ponder *her* path of life—Her ways are unstable; You do not know *them*. **7** Therefore hear me now, *my* children, And do not depart from the words of my mouth. **8** Remove your way far from her, And do not go near the door of her house,

Joseph resisted. (see Gen 39:7-12)

6. Know Yourself and Know Your Weaknesses. Be as smart as the devil.

I Cor. 10:12 - Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

Romans 13:14 - **But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.**

I Cor. 15:33, "Bad company corrupts good character."

Mal. 2:15 (ICB) - **God made husbands and wives to become one body and one spirit for his purpose. This is so they would have children who are true to God. So be careful. Do not break your promise with the wife you married when you were young.**

Conclusion: A Story of Faithfulness^e

"Years ago, the famous explorers Lewis and Clark set out into the western wilderness to blaze a trail across the Rockies. They took with them a French guide who brought along his Native American wife. Life was rough and harsh for those men in the untamed wilderness. Each night, the French guide would offer his wife to the men for a price. Each night, Lewis and Clark refused. Finally they crossed the last river east of the mountains and needed fresh horses and supplies. They asked the chief of a nearby Native American tribe for help. In broken English, the chief replied, "No help white man. White man lie and cheat." But then the wife of the French guide stepped out of the party and said to the chief, "These men are different! They keep their promises to their wives back home." Then she told the story of nights by the campfire and the refusal of these men to do wrong. She was able to persuade the chief, and he loaned Lewis and Clark the needed horses and supplies. Then Lewis and Clark crossed the Great Divide, put their boats in the headwaters of the Columbia River, traveled to the Pacific, and claimed the great northwest. Their greatest achievement was based on their morality."

^d p. 119, D. James Kennedy, Why the Ten Comm. Matter

^e p. 120-121, James Moore, When All Else Fails

EXTRA TEACHING MATERIAL:

1. The “Wicked” Bible - In a 1631 edition of the King James Bible, in [Exodus 20 verse 14](#), the word “not” was left out. This changed the 7th commandment to read, **“Thou shalt commit adultery.”** Most of the copies were recalled immediately and destroyed on the orders of Charles I. But there are 11 copies still remaining. They are known as the “Wicked” Bible. The Bible museum in Branson, Missouri, has one copy of the “Wicked Bible”. The printer was fined heavily for his mistake. The “Wicked” Bible is also known as the “Adulterous” Bible.

2. HUMOR – TRYING TO HELP KIDS UNDERSTAND THIS COMMAND

a. Commandment Question - My Sunday school class of first-graders were learning the Ten Commandments. When we got to “Thou shalt not commit adultery,” I wondered if I would have to explain this to them. Sure enough, suddenly a 7-year-old girl raised her hand and asked, **“What does ‘commit’ mean?”**

b. Eternal Love - One night before bed, my husband and I were reading through the Ten Commandments with our children. When we came to the Seventh Commandment, “You shall not commit adultery,” I explained to the kids that once a man and woman marry, they must stay together forever. Immediately, our 4-year-old son asked, **“What if you have to go to work?”**

The sixth commandment protects the sanctity of life and the seventh the sanctity of marriage. Those who rely on external righteousness break both of those commandments, because in their hearts they attack the sanctity of life and the sanctity of marriage, whether they do so outwardly or not. When they are angry or hate, they commit murder. When they lust sexually, they commit adultery. And when they do either of those things, they choose to despise God’s law and God’s name (see [Ex. 20:14](#); [Lev. 20:10](#); [Deut. 5:18](#)). Anger and sexual lust are two of the most powerful influences on mankind. The person who gives them reign will soon find that he is more controlled than in control. Every person has experienced temptation to anger and to sexual sin, and every person has at some time and to some degree given in to those temptations. Because of that fact, every person is guilty before God of murder and of adultery.

“Think of the peace of mind that comes to a woman who can say, “My husband has chosen me as his only partner and companion for life. He loves and cherishes me, and I can rely on his faithfulness to me.” Or to the husband who can say, “My wife has chosen me as her husband for life. Together we will build a home, raise our children, and labor together for the mutual good of our family. I love her and she loves me, and neither of us will give ourselves to any other.”^f

Lies about Lust and Sex^g (with the Scriptures that answer his accusations):

- 1) Sex is OK as long as you love each other. God wants you happy. (Heb. 13:4; 1 Cor. 6:18-20 TLB)
 - a. **Hebrews 13:4** - Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.
 - b. **1 Corinthians 6:18-20 (TLB)** - ¹⁸ That is why I say to run from sex sin. No other sin affects the body as this one does. When you sin this sin it is against your own body. ¹⁹ Haven’t you yet learned that your body is the home of the Holy Spirit God gave you, and that he lives within you? Your own body does not belong to you. ²⁰ For God has bought you with a great price. So use every part of your body to give glory back to God because he owns it.
- 2) People get away with adultery. ([Proverbs 5:3-5](#); [Proverbs 5:8-11](#)).
 - a. **Prov 5:3-5 - 3** For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey, And her mouth is smoother than oil; **4** But in the end she is bitter as wormwood, Sharp as a twoedged sword. **5** Her feet go down to death, Her steps lay hold of hell.
 - b. **Proverbs 5:8-14 (HCSB)** ⁸ Keep your way far from her. Don’t go near the door of her house. ⁹ Otherwise, you will give up your vitality to others and your years to someone cruel; ¹⁰ strangers will drain your resources, and your earnings will end up in a foreigner’s house. ¹¹ At the end of your life, you will lament when your physical body has been consumed, ¹² and you will say, “How I hated discipline, and how my heart despised correction.

^f p. 156, Pat Robertson, Ten Offenses

^g Joshua Harris “Not Even a Hint”, appendix.

¹³ I didn't obey my teachers or listen closely to my mentors.

¹⁴ I am on the verge of complete ruin before the entire community."

- 3) Lust is not a big deal (Job 31:11-12 NLT)
 - a. Job 31:11-12 (NLT) - For lust is a shameful sin, a crime that should be punished. It is a fire that burns all the way to hell. It would wipe out everything I own.
- 4) Too much purity will keep me from seeing and enjoying beauty. ([Matthew 5:8](#); [Psalm 11:7, ESV](#); [Isaiah 33:17](#))
 - a. Psalm 11:7 (ESV) - For the LORD is righteous; he loves righteous deeds; the upright shall behold his face.
 - b. Isaiah 33:17 (NKJV) - Your eyes will see the King in His beauty; They will see the land that is very far off.
 - c. **Matthew 5:8 (NKJV)** Blessed *are* the pure in heart, For they shall see God.
- 5) I can't control my sex drive. ([1 Thessalonians 4:3-6](#))
 - a. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 (NKJV) 3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, 5 not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God;
- 6) A little fantasizing doesn't hurt anybody. (Matt. 5:27-30)
- 7) Looking at a few pornographic pictures won't affect me. ([Proverbs 6:25-27](#); [Psalm 101:3](#))
 - a. Proverbs 6:25-29 (NKJV) - 25 Do not lust after her beauty in your heart, Nor let her allure you with her eyelids. 26 For by means of a harlot A man is reduced to a crust of bread; And an adulteress will prey upon his precious life. 27 Can a man take fire to his bosom, And his clothes not be burned? 28 Can one walk on hot coals, And his feet not be seared? 29 So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife; Whoever touches her shall not be innocent.
 - b. Psalm 101:3 (NASB) - I will set no worthless thing before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; It shall not fasten its grip on me.
 - c. Psalm 101:3 (MSG) - I refuse to take a second look at corrupting people and degrading things. I reject made-in-Canaan gods, stay clear of contamination.
- 8) Radical action against sin isn't necessary ([Matthew 5:29-30](#); [2 Timothy 2:22](#))
 - a. 2 Timothy 2:22 (NKJV) - Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.
 - b. Matthew 5:29-30 (NKJV) 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.
- 9) God made you this way. Go ahead and give in to your desires. (1 Cor. 6:9-11)
 - a. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (NKJV) - 9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.