



Sexual Purity Course Lesson 20

Scripture: Read Matthew 5:27-30.

Study:

1. How does Jesus expand upon Exodus 20:14 and Deuteronomy 5:18?
2. How the eye is involved in this sin?
3. How the heart is involved in this sin?
4. What does Jesus mean when He talks about tearing out an eye and cutting off a hand? Is this to be taken literally? If not, then how should it be taken?
5. Why is the threat of hell associated with adultery in the heart? Is the threat real or hypothetical?

Application:

What does this involve in practice? Let me elaborate and so interpret Jesus' teaching: 'If your eye causes you to sin because temptation comes to you through your eyes (objects you see), then pluck out your eyes. That is, don't look! Behave as if you had actually plucked out your eyes and flung them away, and were now blind and so could not see the objects which previously caused you to sin. Again, if your hand or foot causes you to sin, because temptation comes to you through your hands (things you do) or your feet (places you visit), then cut them off. That is: don't do it! Don't go! Behave as if you had actually cut off your hands and feet, and had flung them away, and were now crippled and so could not do the things or visit the places which previously caused you to sin.' That is the meaning of mortification (John Stott, *Christian Counter-Culture*, pg. 89).

1. How can you control what happens in your heart? What will you do to direct your thoughts and imagination so that even in your heart you will experience sexual purity?
2. How will you "cut off your hand" or "pluck out your eye?" In what ways specifically do you need to do the spiritual work of amputation so that the sin of sexual immorality will not be repeated? What *exactly* will this look like?