



THE GOSPEL OF
MATTHEW



Diagnosing the Heart of Sexual Sin

Matthew 5:27–28



Matthew 5:27–30

²⁷ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’
²⁸ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.”



1. God's beautiful design



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Our culture's main purposes for sexuality

- Pleasure for me
- Power over others



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Our culture's main purposes for sexuality

- Pleasure for me
- Power over others

God's main purposes for sexuality

- Consummation of a marriage
- Potential for procreation
- Expresses and intensifies love
- Source of mutual pleasure



2. God's basic command (5:27)

²⁷ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’”



Leviticus 18:20

“And you shall not lie sexually with your neighbor’s wife and so make yourself unclean with her.”



Deuteronomy 22:22

“If a man is found lying with the wife of another man,
both of them shall die...”



Proverbs 6:32

He who commits adultery lacks sense;
he who does it destroys himself.



3. Our wandering hearts (5:28)

²⁸ “But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”



Proverbs 5:16

Should your springs be scattered abroad,
streams of water in the streets?



Proverbs 14:15

The simple believes everything,
but the prudent gives thought to his steps.



Proverbs 14:12

There is a way that seems right to a man,
but its end is the way to death.



Proverbs 5:3–4

Her speech is smoother than oil, but in the end she is... sharp as a two-edged sword.



Jeremiah 2:13

For my people have committed two evils:
they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters,
and hewed out cisterns for themselves,
broken cisterns that can hold no water.



Some deadly playgrounds of the adulterous heart



Some deadly playgrounds of the adulterous heart

- Pornography
- Fantasy
- Erotica (literature or art)
- Sexting
- Sex-scrolling
- Casual entertainment



Our fantasies thrill us...

- The lonely become popular.
- The ugly become desirable.
- The unfulfilled become satisfied.
- The curious become enlightened.
- The abused become strong.



Our fantasies thrill us... then deepen our despair

- The lonely feel lonelier.
- The ugly feel uglier.
- The unfulfilled feel tossed aside.
- The curious are no closer to their dreams.
- The abused become weaker still.

— Helen Thorne



Your heart is valuable, vulnerable, and complex



Your heart is valuable, vulnerable, and complex

Proverbs 4:23

Keep your heart with all vigilance,
for from it flow the springs of life.



Your heart is valuable, vulnerable, and complex

Proverbs 20:5

The purpose in a man's heart is like deep water,
but a man of understanding will draw it out.



Trigger-Motives for Sexual Sin

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- Triggers are situations or feelings that provoke *(but do not produce)* our desires.



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- Triggers are situations or feelings that provoke *(but do not produce)* our desires.
- Triggers may be moral, neutral, or immoral.
- Motives are our driving desires that aim, decide, and act. Our motives and desires are always morally loaded.



20 Trigger-Motives for Sexual Sin

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Trigger	Motive
1. Boredom	sin as my <u>excitement</u>
2. Loneliness	sin as my <u>company</u>
3. Stress	sin as my <u>relief</u>
4. Frustration	sin as my <u>peace</u>
5. Fatigue	sin as my <u>rest</u>



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Trigger	Motive
6. Hurt	sin as my <u>refuge</u>
7. Betrayal	sin as my <u>revenge</u>
8. Bitterness	sin as my <u>justice</u>
9. Opportunity	sin as my <u>pleasure</u>
10. Rejection	sin as my <u>comfort</u>



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Trigger	Motive
11. Failure	sin as my <u>success</u>
12. Success	sin as my <u>reward</u>
13. Entitlement	sin as my <u>right</u>
14. Desire to please	sin as my <u>affirmation</u>
15. Time of day	sin as my <u>pacifier</u>



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Trigger	Motive
16. Location	sin as my <u>escape</u> or <u>re-living</u>
17. Accusation	sin as my <u>silencer</u>
18. Attention	sin as my <u>magnet</u>
19. Weakness	sin as my <u>power</u>
20. Desire	sin as my <u>satisfaction</u>



20 Trigger-Motives for Sexual Sin | Brad Hambrick

1. **Boredom:** sin as my excitement
2. **Loneliness:** sin as my company
3. **Stress:** sin as my relief
4. **Frustration:** sin as my peace
5. **Fatigue:** sin as my rest
6. **Hurt:** sin as my refuge
7. **Betrayal:** sin as my revenge
8. **Bitterness:** sin as my justice
9. **Opportunity:** sin as my pleasure
10. **Rejection:** sin as my comfort
11. **Failure:** sin as my success
12. **Success:** sin as my reward
13. **Entitlement:** sin as my right
14. **Desire to please:** sin as my affirmation
15. **Time of day:** sin as my pacifier
16. **Location:** sin as my escape or re-living
17. **Accusation:** sin as my silencer
18. **Attention:** sin as my magnet
19. **Weakness:** sin as my power
20. **Desire:** sin as my satisfaction



4. Our gospel hope



Luke 7:36–50

³⁶ Then one of the Pharisees invited him to eat with him. He entered the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table.

³⁷ And a woman in the town who was a sinner found out that Jesus was reclining at the table in the Pharisee's house. She brought an alabaster jar of perfume ³⁸ and stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to wash his feet with her tears. She wiped his feet with her hair, kissing them and anointing them with the perfume.



³⁹ When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “This man, if he were a prophet, would know who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him—she’s a sinner!”

⁴⁰ Jesus replied to him, “Simon, I have something to say to you.”

He said, “Say it, teacher.”



⁴¹ “A creditor had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴² Since they could not pay it back, he graciously forgave them both. So, which of them will love him more?”

⁴³ Simon answered, “I suppose the one he forgave more.”
“You have judged correctly,” he told him.



⁴⁴ Turning to the woman, he said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she, with her tears, has washed my feet and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You gave me no kiss, but she hasn’t stopped kissing my feet since I came in. ⁴⁶ You didn’t anoint my head with olive oil, but she has anointed my feet with perfume. ⁴⁷ Therefore I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; that’s why she loved much. But the one who is forgiven little, loves little.”

⁴⁸ Then he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”



⁴⁹ Those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, “Who is this man who even forgives sins?”

⁵⁰ And he said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.”



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