



Sunday, January 30, 2011: The Desire of a Pure Heart

Scripture: Matthew 5:27-30; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

Speaker: David Robinson

**Sermon Notes:**

1. The questions of sexuality are hugely important to the church as we face current issues in our culture.
2. Jesus is neither adding to nor intensifying the law of God, but He is providing an infallible application of the law for His people.
3. In Matthew 5:28, Jesus connects the 7<sup>th</sup> commandment to the 10<sup>th</sup> which forbids coveting your neighbour's wife.
4. This command applies to both men and women.
5. The Greek word for lust is the same word used to denote coveting.
6. To lust is to visualize using a woman (or man) for your own illicit purposes.
7. Love desires to serve a person; lust desires to use, to dominate, and to control a person.
8. Today's pornography is more sadistic and pervasive than in previous history.
9. Of 16-24 year-olds, 70% of men and 10% of women admitted to viewing porn more than once a month.
10. Porn is a toxin and it is literally killing people from the inside out.
11. Porn is seeping into popular culture at a huge social cost.
12. The values and standards of a porn culture are seen in movies, TV, and print media.
13. Contrary to popular belief, porn is not a harmless "guy thing." It is demonic, destroying countless marriages, children, and souls.
14. The church cannot be salt and light if we ourselves are caught up in the sins of lust and adultery.
15. In verses 29-30, Jesus uses hyperbole to teach that we are to cut off whatever it is in our lives which tempts us.
16. Get rid of your computer, or use software such as [safeeyes.com](http://safeeyes.com) or [covenanteyes.com](http://covenanteyes.com). See also [www.x3pure.com](http://www.x3pure.com).

17. In Romans 5-8, Paul says that God has condemned and conquered sin on the cross. Sin now has no power or dominion over us.
18. The Spirit of God is the Lord and life-giver, daily liberating, renewing and regenerating us.
19. Life in the Spirit is key to resisting the temptation to lust.
20. The Spirit is God's effectual empowerment in the struggle against sin. We're left without an argument for helplessness. The Spirit is powerfully able to change behaviour.
21. The Church historically has recommended prayer, fasting, vigilance, and the sacraments as means to heighten our spiritual sensitivity when battling temptation.
22. Confession can help us to lead a victorious life in the Spirit.
23. In John 20:19-23, Jesus gives His disciples a model of confessing to one another and pronouncing Christ's forgiveness.
24. Sexual sin flourishes in the darkness; in confession, that sin is thrown out in the light: it is identified, named, judged and forgiven.
25. We then experience anew God's mercy and forgiveness.
26. Be concrete and specific in confession to a reliable Christian brother or sister, who will pronounce Christ's forgiveness. This is a very important practice which liberates us from bondage to sin.
27. Cultivate your desire for God. Redirect your attention to God rather than wallowing in temptation and sin.
28. We may feel ashamed or hopeless; don't give in to that despair.
29. We are the bride of Christ, washed from impurity and made beautiful for Him (Ezekiel 16:1-14).

**Application Questions:**

1. Define lust as Jesus uses the term in Matthew 5:28.
2. What are some practical applications of Matthew 5:29-30 to the issues of pornography?
3. How is confession of sin to a brother or sister an important process in gaining victory over a pattern of sexual sin?
4. Besides confession, what are some other specific steps a believer can take to overcome temptations of lust and pornography?
5. How do Romans chapters 5-8 encourage the believer who is struggling with sin?
6. Am I cultivating a desire for God?