

MATTHEW 5:27-32 / OCTOBER 18

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Read and Pray

This week's sermon continues our series through the Sermon on the Mount, and Jesus addresses heavy topics such as adultery and divorce. As a group, read Matthew 5:27-32. After reading, spend time in silent prayer. What stood out to you? What might the Spirit be pressing into your life?

Sermon Recap (to *apply*, not rehash the sermon)

Review the sermon with your group. Focus especially on:

- Expressive individualism says, "I am most truly myself when I am able to express outwardly who I feel myself to be inwardly."
- Sex is an invitation, within marriage, to express and renew your covenant love *with* each other *before* God.
- We're not responsible for the thoughts that occur to us, but we *are* responsible for what we do with them.
- Nobody is too far gone or too bad or too far away to experience healing and wholeness in the gospel.

Group Discussion

1. Pastor Curtis talked about three views of sex. What is the danger in viewing sexual desires as your ultimate identity, and how is this view a distortion of God's design for sex?
2. In what ways is lust not just a violation of the seventh commandment but also a violation of the tenth commandment ("You shall not covet")?
3. In vv. 29-30, Jesus calls for us to deal with sin as drastically and radically as necessary. Give some examples of what that might look like on a practical level.
4. Consider Pastor Curtis' statement that "we're not responsible for the thoughts that occur to us, but we are responsible for what we do with them." How can we best deal with sinful thoughts that we have, "taking them captive to obey Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5)?
5. What words of hope and encouragement could you offer someone who is feeling shame or regret for sexual sins in their past?

WEEKLY REFLECTION QUESTIONS

REFLECT:

In what moments or situations are you most tempted toward lust?

RESPOND:

What is one step you can take this week to cut off what is feeding your sin?

REACH:

If you know someone who could benefit from one of Summit's G4 groups (divorce care, for example), help connect them: summitchurch.com/g4.

PRAYER

☐ Thank God for his work of changing us from the inside, giving us new hearts (Ezekiel 36:26-27).

☐ Pray that through the Spirit's power, God would enable you to flee from sin and pursue holiness.

☐ Pray that as believers (whether married or single) we would put the gospel on display in the way we treat each other as people made in the image of God.