***The Sermon on the Mount***

**God’s Law and Kingdom Citizens, Do Not Commit Adultery; Matthew 5:27-30**

**Background to Matthew 5:17-48**

* **The Lofty Standard of Righteousness**
* **The Necessity of Grace**
1. **Marriage as a Picture of Our Relationship to God**
	* Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness…Genesis 1:26
	* I will say to those who were not My people, “You are My people!”…Hosea 2:23
	* And Jesus said to them, "The attendants of the bridegroom cannot mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them, can they?...” Matthew 9:15
	* Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her… Ephesians 5:25
	* Then one of the seven angels…spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." Revelation 21:9
2. **Sexual Purity and the Theater of the Mind**
	* Just as loyalty to God is not merely external obeisance, so too is loyalty to a spouse
	* Just as lack of contentment with God is a source for idolatry, so too is lack of contentment with our relationship situation a source for idolatry
	* Not just lust for a physical affair, but includes lust for an emotional affair
3. **The Serious Nature of Murder and Adultery**
	* Do whatever it takes to get control of these temptations, Matthew 5:29-30
4. **Practical Solutions “tearing out eyes” and “cutting off arms”**
	* Engage our minds with spiritual matters: Reading Seminar
	* Protect our environment from sexual temptations
		+ Home Internet: [www.NetNanny.Com](http://www.NetNanny.Com), [www.CovenantEyes.Com](http://www.CovenantEyes.Com)
		+ Company Internet: [www.contentwatch.com](http://www.contentwatch.com)
	* Protect our relationships from emotional temptations
	* Pursue intimacy in our marriage
	* Seek professional help for addictions or sexual problems

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**God’s Law and Kingdom Citizens, Do Not Commit Adultery; Matthew 5:27-30**

**Scripture Reading and Prayer**

* **Read Matthew 5:27-30 (Slides)**
* **Pray for Molina Moreno (and Mark Murphy)**

**Exposition Matt. 5:27-30 (Slide 1 – Header Slide)**

**Background to Matthew 5:17-48**

* **The Lofty Standard of Righteousness**
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1. **Marriage as a Picture of Our Relationship to God**
	* Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness…Genesis 1:26
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	* Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her… Ephesians 5:25
	* **Read Revelation 21:9 (Slide 2)**
	* Then one of the seven angels…spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." Revelation 21:9
2. **Sexual Purity and the Theater of the Mind**
	* **Read Matthew 5:27-28 (Slide 3-4)**
	* We love the picture of loyalty in marriage even though it is becoming increasing rare in our culture
	* Two examples – Winnie and Clarence Lambert 68 years of marriage
	* John Wooden - Wooden remained devoted to Nellie, even decades after her death, until Wooden's own death. Since her death, he kept to a monthly ritual (health permitting)—on the 21st, he visited her grave, and then wrote a love letter to her. After completing the letter, he placed it in an envelope and added it to a stack of similar letters that accumulated over the years on the pillow she slept on during their life together.
	* However, true faithfulness to a person’s spouse goes beyond this external examples and engages the heart
	* Just as loyalty to God is not merely external obeisance, so too is loyalty to a spouse
	* This picture of loyalty within the marriage can also be seen as a picture of loyalty between us and God
	* Just as lack of contentment with God is a source for idolatry, so too is lack of contentment with our relationship situation a source for idolatry
	* I say idolatry because idolatry is the pursuit of a substitute for reality and diminishes the reality of our relationships
	* Idolatry in the form of betrayal of God is when we place in God’s place something more valuable to us than God Himself
	* It is driven out of a discontentment – idolatry comes when we wish to craft a god in our own image or to our own liking
	* For men, this is a constant battle and the advent of 21st century media has made this battle unbelievably difficult – you cannot go to the grocery store, the movie rental store, drive down the highway, go online, go to a convenient store without this assault on our souls
	* Jesus attributes a thought in the mind, a pursuit of that thought with the mind as adultery and the disloyalty is not only to our spouse, but to God Himself
	* Not just lust for a physical affair, but includes lust for an emotional affair
	* Women and the 21st century is marked by the commonality of the banes of life that plague men now plaguing women
	* When I first started as an actuary, the early mortality tables had women living 10 or 12 years longer than the average male
	* As newer tables come into the mix two observations could be seen, 1. All people were living longer – likely do to advances in medicine (heart disease, cholesterol)
	* 2. The gap between men and women had closed
	* Women were now working in the same stress filled occupations, women were now smoking and drinking at the same rates as men – the freedoms that women were beginning to experience in the second half of the 20th century had some negatives
	* One of the cultural items that emerged – women began to imitate male counterparts in the area of sexuality – images, sexual material directed at women
	* Jesus’ concerns in this passage, while at one time was primarily directed at men, the 21st century puts us in a situation to easily apply this text to both men and women
	* There is another application as well, especially with the advent of such reading and theatrical material - both men and women, especially women – there is another form of mental disloyalty that occurs frequently
	* Idolatry in the mind for women – dreaming about that perfect relationship set against their current relationship – the dream for prince charming to sweep you off your feet used to be the dream of the single woman and now plays in the mind of those who are married
	* Your husband will never seem as good as prince charming or Edward Cullen or Jacob Black – guard yourself on this
3. **The Serious Nature of Murder and Adultery**
	* Do whatever it takes to get control of these temptations, Matthew 5:29-30
	* **Read Matthew 5:29-30 (Slides 5-6)**
	* Hyperbolic versus parabolic - Parables take reasonable examples from life and uses those examples to present spiritual truths
	* Hyperbolic takes unreasonable examples from life as a means of communicating the seriousness or extreme importance of a spiritual truth
	* Hyperbole - what justification do I have of suggesting Jesus is using hyperbole and that He does not wish for us to fulfill this command literally
	* 1. No evidence that this was practiced anywhere in the early church even though we know that Matthew’s Gospel was widely available to the church in 1st century
	* 2. He uses hyperbole in other sections of the Sermon on the Mount
	* Matthew 7 “Do not cast your pearls before swine…” and “Take the log out of your own eye and then you will be able to see the speck in your brother’s eye…”
	* Matthew 5 “Guilty before the Sanhedrin…” for calling your brother or sister contemptible words
	* We use hyperbolic language like this all the time to communicate our feelings on the matter – “I would give my right arm for a car like that.”
	* So these words are hyperbolic – extreme, poetic words to communicate how important this battle over anger and sexual sins is to God
	* This is not to minimize the seriousness of the statement but simply to say that in order to communicate the seriousness of this matter, Jesus employs hyperbole
	* This is deadly serious – this is monumental in terms of our relationship to God
	* It is not merely a sin against our spouse or future spouse, it is a sin against God Himself
4. **Practical Solutions “tearing out eyes” and “cutting off arms” (Header Slide 7)**
	* Engage our minds with spiritual matters: Reading Seminar
	* Protect our environment from sexual temptations
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5. **Conclusion:**
* **Our loyalty to God can be seen in our loyalty to Him in our hearts and minds. This is true of our anger and this is true of our battle with sexual purity. This is a battle, one that must be fought. There may be times when we lose the battle, but we cannot give up on the war. If you have been losing regularly, it is time for a change for the glory of Christ in your life.**

Announcements:

1. Ice cream fellowship this evening at 7:00 PM.
2. Discipleship courses tonight.
3. Reading seminar