

Kingdom Come  
**Adultery & Divorce**  
Matthew 5:27-32

Introduction

1. Our culture blindly treats sexual relations and attraction as a casual physical pleasure meant to satisfy our own personal, selfish needs. Christ as part of the Trinity designed marriage after His holy union with the church which demonstrates self-sacrifice, faithfulness, love and respect. Sexual relations are fully satisfied only within Biblical marriage. Singles and marrieds alike must consider Christ's warning against lust being equivalent to adultery, and its slavery to sin and death. God values people and relationships. He calls us to do the same.

Has the influence of ads, entertainment and literature drawn you to question God's design for the committed, lifetime, monogamous marriage relationship or God's call for your sexual abstinence as a single person? Have they made it more difficult to obey God in this area?

Understanding/Application

Read Matthew 5:27-32 – Christ's focus on the heart of adultery

2. Pastor Dave noted that cheating in marriages damages spouses, children, and the entire culture, not to mention it dishonors and sins against God. Adultery, the Biblical reason for divorce noted in verses 31 and 32, is one factor among many causes of divorce. Yet our God heals and forgives with his grace. Read John 8:1-11. What key instruction does Christ give the adulterous woman in verse 11? How can the entire passage inform those who are guilty of adultery or lust? How can it instruct us to treat others whose sin has been exposed?
3. In our sermon this week, there are two actions against adultery and lust to arm ourselves with:
  - a) Fight against lust – turn away, repent, reject triggers which objectify people (or yourself), reject triggers which draw you to believe our culture's sexual mores are good and that there are no consequences. Reject actions which indicate or encourage sexual interest in or from someone. What is the end result of not fighting to be pure? (Read verse 30) What are some ways you can fight lustful thoughts and actions?
  - b) Fight for your marriage (or future marriage or integrity as a single Christ following disciple.) Pastor Dave noted that marriage is hard work, yet worth fighting for. What Scriptures can married couples apply individually and together to foster the commitment to lifelong monogamous devotion and unity? What can married couples do to relate better, "stay in love", and sustain life's troubles together as helpmates? What resources can couples tap into at The Chapel? What Scriptures can singles apply to remain pure? How can couples prepare for marriage?

APPLICATION/CHALLENGE

Read Psalm 51 for perspective on David's prayer of repentance after adultery and murder.

(King David - The man after God's own heart)

Pray silently over unconfessed sin, sexual or otherwise. Pray silently for those who need God's direction, protection, and comfort and for victims of and those who have committed adultery. Pray for victims of human trafficking.

Marrieds: Be deliberate to plan alone time with your spouse to talk, discover, relax and love each other.