

## God's Original Intent

March 5, 2006

Jesus Christ came to earth to embody **God's original intent** behind giving the Law. He did not come to abolish the Law, but to fulfill the Law by living it out and showing us the way of the Kingdom of God.

<sup>27</sup> "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' <sup>28</sup> But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup> If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. <sup>30</sup> And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

<sup>31</sup> "It has been said, 'Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.' <sup>32</sup> But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery." **Matthew 5:27-32**

### Lust and Adultery

The Greek word Jesus uses for lust is Epithumeo. It's a strong, intense word that means directing your affection towards anything in order to possess.

**FOUR** exhortations to **men** (and women):

- 1) It is **O.K.** to notice, acknowledge and appreciate the beauty of women.
- 2) It is not **O.K.** to keep on looking at a woman in order to lust after her.
- 3) Lust demeans and dehumanizes women created in God's image.
- 4) Lust is a slippery slope that can quickly lead to sexual addiction.

**THREE** reminders that can help **men** (and women) avoid being taken captive or in case you're in captivity to lust right now:

- 1) Wake up and realize that you are in a fight!
- 2) Fight shoulder to shoulder with brothers!
- 3) Fight with God's armor and the Word of God!

**FOUR** exhortations to **women** (and FYI men):

- 1) God has made each of you sexually attractive and feminine.
- 2) Your sexuality is a gift, not a weapon.
- 3) Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires.

### Divorce

Study **Deuteronomy 24:1-4** and **Matthew 19:3-9** for broader context of Matthew 5:31-32.

Three observations regarding divorce:

- 1) Jesus brings us back to God's original intent to give women worth and dignity.
- 2) Jesus reminds us that God's creational will supercedes God's concessional will.
- 3) Jesus reminds us that divorce is not an unforgivable sin.