

Proverbs: Lessons from the Wisdom of Solomon
Seven Deadly Sins: Lust
Proverbs 23:26-28

Our culture tends to make the demands of the law less demanding and the permissions of the law more permissive. It seems that every generation has the opportunity to “reinterpret” the law to suit itself. Western culture has conveniently established a very narrow definition of sexual sin and a very broad definition of sexual purity.

1. We must give Jesus our _____
2. We must hear Jesus' _____
3. We must trust Jesus' _____
 - A. The horizontal antidote to lust is _____.
 - B. The vertical antidote to lust is the _____.

What Jesus teaches is extremely counter-cultural with regard to standards of permissiveness. It is based on the principle that eternity is more important than time and purity than culture, and that any sacrifice is worthwhile in this life if it is necessary to ensure our entry into the next. We must decide whether to live for this world or the next, whether to follow the crowd or follow Jesus.

Reflection

Take some time to read the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7. Consider the differences between sinful dispositions and sinful behaviors, thinking specifically about the similarities and differences in the consequences of each. What are some seemingly innocent ways that people fall into lust? Are you possibly taking baby steps toward sexual sin without even realizing it? How should marriage free us from lust? How can you practically fight against lust? What does it look like practically to “gouge out your eye”? Do you agree that God’s design for intimacy between two people is the best design? If so, why? If not, why not?