

Jesus' Teachings on Adultery and Divorce

Matthew 5:27-32

- **Heart Adultery (5:27-30)**
- **Divorce (5:31-32)**

A. Adultery is not only a sin in act but also a sin in thought (5:27-30)

27 "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' 28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, 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. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, 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.

“Of the top 500 keyword queries on popular search engines, 20% to 25% of the searches are pornographic.”

(According to Webtracker)

The Barna Group and Covenant Eyes:

- ✓ **Over 40 million Americans are regular visitors to porn sites. The average visit lasts 6 minutes and 29 seconds;**
- ✓ **47% of families in the US reported that pornography is a problem in their home;**
- ✓ **Pornography use increases the marital infidelity rate by more than 300%;**

- ✓ **Eleven is the average age that a child is first exposed to porn, and 94% of children will see porn by the age of 14;**
- ✓ **56% of American divorces involve one party having an “obsessive interest” in pornographic websites;**

- ✓ **68% of church-going men and over 50% of pastors view porn on a regular basis.**
- ✓ **Of young Christian adults 18-24 years old, 76% actively search for porn.**

- ✓ **33% of women aged 25-and-under search for porn at least once per month. Only 13% of Christian women say they never watch porn, but that means 87% of Christian women have watched porn;**
- ✓ **55% of married men and 25% of married women say they watch porn at least once a month;**

- ✓ **57% of pastors say porn addiction is the most damaging issue in their congregation.**
- ✓ **And 69% say porn has adversely impacted the church.**

*(Luke Gibbons, 15 Mind-Blowing Statistics About Pornography and The Church,
<https://conquerseries.com/15-mind-blowing-statistics-about-pornography-and-the-church/>)*

Remedy to avoid committing 'heart-adultery'

*1. Take drastic measures to deal with
this sin (5:29-30)*

*29 If your right eye causes you to sin,
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.*

*30 And if your right hand causes you to
sin, 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.*

- **“The devil sometimes appeared to him in the form of a woman.”**
(Athanasius said of St. Anthony)
- **“In bed his imagination was often beset with visions of naked women.”** (Jerome said of St. Hilarion)
- **A monk named Ptolemy spent 3 years in a desert - His end was skepticism, madness and debauchery.**

***You cannot keep the bird from
flying over your head, but you
can keep it from building a nest
in your hair.***

2. Recite Scripture verses:

- **Psalm 66:18 - *If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened***
- **Matthew 16:23 - “*Get behind me, Satan.*”**

3. Pray. Ask the Holy Spirit for help. Fast if necessary.

A. Adultery is not only a sin in act but also a sin in thought

B. Divorce is never intended in God's plan for marriage

(5:31-32)

"It has been said, 'Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.' 32 But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery.

Common Excuses for Divorce

- 1. "I married the wrong person and I don't have peace."***
- 2. "I don't love my mate," or, "I've fallen out of love." "I love someone else."***
- 3. "My mate doesn't love me." "I'm so unhappy. This can't be what God wants."***

4. *"We're incompatible," or, "We have grown apart."*
5. *"It is better that we are divorced friends than married enemies."*
6. *"She's not a good Christian wife." or "She would be happier without me."*

7. "We serve a forgiving God. He will forgive me. We serve a God of love."

8. "Divorce is no worse than other sins."

- Among the (Talmudic) writings of the rabbis is the statement, “*A bad wife is like leprosy to her husband. What is the remedy? Let him divorce her and be cured of his leprosy.*”

- **Another rabbi wrote, “*If a man has a bad wife, it is a religious duty to divorce her.*” (MacArthur, vol. 3, p. 173).**

Jesus allowed divorce on only one condition - i.e. marital unfaithfulness (5:32).

The Greek word is *porneia* πορνεία from which the word 'pornography' derives.

What is πορνεία?

- any general sexual sin like incest (1 Corinthians 5:1);
- sexual immorality (1 Corinthians 6:13);
- homosexuality (Jude 7); and
- adultery (Jeremiah 3:1,2,6,8).

What contributed to present day divorces?

1. Social Media
2. Ignoring text messages
3. Dirty dishes
4. Bad table manners
5. Laundry
6. Make-up
7. Political views
8. Cleaning
9. Love letters
10. Phone nicknames

James Dobson: *90% of divorce involved extremely busy husbands who are in love with their work and tend to be insensitive, unromantic, and non-communicative. They are married to lonely, vulnerable romantic women who have severe doubt about their worth as human beings.*

Examples of Forgiveness

➤ **Hosea the Prophet** (Hosea 3:1)

The LORD said to me, "Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another and is an adulteress. Love her as the LORD loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes."

- **Woman caught in adultery was not punished but forgiven (John 8:1–11).**

The Other Side of Divorce

- 1. Unprepared for life after divorce**
- 2. Financially devastating**
- 3. Damaging effect on children**
- 4. Loss of self-worth**
- 5. Grief, loneliness and anger set in**

How to fight against divorce

- 1. Pray very hard before marriage. Choose the right, godly spouse**
- 2. Remember your vow was made before God and man**
- 3. Refuse to let Satan win your battle, don't shame the name of Christ.**
- 4. Remember your days of love, rekindle them**
- 5. Protect your marriage – choice of words and acts**
- 6. Attend marriage enrichment seminar from time to time**

Marriages that last take these routes to success:

- ✓ **Endurance**
- ✓ **Hard work**
- ✓ **Personal change**

More marriages die from inflexibility.

Commitment and compromise – keys to make the marriage works

Review:

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but also a sin in thought (5:27-30)**

**1. Take drastic measures to deal
with this sin (5:29-30)**

2. Recite Scripture verses

**3. Pray. Ask the Holy Spirit for
help. Fast if necessary.**

**B. Divorce is never intended in
God's plan for marriage (5:31-32)**

- **Consider the dark side of divorce**
- **Fight hard against a divorce**