

SERMON *on the* MOUNT

Guarding the Covenant

Matthew 5:27-32

Covenant Eyes

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

Matthew 5:27-28

How do you view sex?

Maybe you've been told that sex is _____.

Maybe you've bought the lie that sex is _____.

But you need to know that sex is a _____.

*"I have made **a covenant with my eyes** not to look lustfully at a girl."*

Job 31:1

"If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away... And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away."

Matthew 5:29-30

You have to _____ sin before it _____ you.

Potholes

(ways you're tempted, feelings, times...)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Guardrails

(how to avoid stumbling into potholes)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Covenant Marriage

"I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery."

Matthew 5:31-32

Biblical grounds for divorce:

- _____
- _____
- _____

Guard the covenant of your eyes
and the covenant of marriage.

Sermon on the Mount: Guarding the Covenant

Matthew 5:27-32

Questions from Sermon on April 19, 2026

Getting to Know Me

1. Share one experience from the week of Easter preparation or celebration that stayed with you or impacted you deeply.

Digging Deeper

2. What challenged you, encouraged you, brought up questions from this week's sermon?
3. Read Matthew 5:27-32 together. How does Jesus reframe the Old Testament law in the following verses?
 - Verse 28 –
 - Verse 32 –
4. How have you experienced or seen the various views of sex (gross, god, or gift) throughout your life or in our culture?
5. Pastor Phil drew a line between attraction and lust, defining lust as a look with a purpose. How does that distinction change the way you read Jesus' words in verse 28?
6. Jesus says to gouge out the eye or cut off the hand that causes you to sin. Given his focus throughout the Sermon on the Mount, what is he actually targeting here?
7. Read Job 31:1 and Psalm 101:3. What are some guardrails that apply to habits, relationships, technology, etc. that would be helpful for you or others who struggle with lust?

8. How does Jesus elevate our view of marriage in verses 31-32?
9. What is the difference between God's view of the marriage *covenant* and our culture's view of marriage as a *contract*?
10. How did Pastor Phil's laying out of biblical grounds for divorce land with you? What questions or tensions did it raise? (See Matthew 19:1-12, Deuteronomy 24:1-2 & I Corinthians 7:15-16.)
11. What does Malachi 2:16 reveal about why God hates divorce?

Making it Personal

12. Over half of practicing Christians access pornography somewhat regularly; 84% say no one is helping them. What would it take to change that?
13. Take some time this week to sketch out your guardrails. Share your thoughts here if you'd like.
14. Who is someone you can share openly and vulnerably with about any temptation or relational challenges you may navigate? Invite them in this week.
15. Is there anything else sitting with your spirit that you would like to share or ask support for?

Prayer

Both lust and divorce leave devastation in their wake. Most of us have felt that, whether firsthand or through someone we love. Take a moment to read the promise in Joel 2:25 together. This is an image of God redeeming what is lost in times of struggle. Now, pray in the hope that God will restore the years, relationships... as only he can!

We exist to glorify God by guiding people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

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How do you view sex?

Maybe you've been told that sex is **GROSS**.

Maybe you've bought the lie that sex is **GOD**.

But you need to know that sex is a **GIFT**.

*"I have made **a covenant with my eyes**
not to look lustfully at a girl."*

Job 31:1

"If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away... And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away."

Matthew 5:29-30

You have to **KILL** sin before it **KILLS** you.

Potholes

(ways you're tempted, feelings, times...)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Guardrails

(how to avoid stumbling into potholes)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
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Covenant Marriage

"I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery."

Matthew 5:31-32

Biblical grounds for divorce:

- **ADULTERY**
- **ABANDONMENT**
- **ABUSE**

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and the covenant of marriage.