



June 29, 2025
Kevin Sneed
Matthew 5:27-30

Introduction

This week's message tackles Jesus' teaching on lust and sexuality, addressing the false divide between spirituality and sexuality in our culture. Kevin Sneed challenges both secular and religious extremes—the secular position that all sexual feelings should be pursued, and the religious stereotype that sexuality should be repressed. Continuing through the Sermon on the Mount, we see Jesus once again going deeper than external behavior to heart transformation. Through Matthew 5:27-30, Jesus reveals that the issue isn't sexual desire itself, but the "lingering look" that creates conditions for adultery. The message distinguishes between communion (being fully known and loved) and consumption (using others for personal pleasure), calling us toward wholeness rather than shame.

Key Texts: Matthew 5:27-30; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7; 1 Corinthians 6:18-20

Icebreaker

What's one area of your life where you've had to set boundaries to protect something you value (could be time, money, health, relationships, etc.)?

Discussion Questions

1. Kevin mentioned the cultural divide between sexuality and spirituality—with secular culture saying "if you feel it, pursue it" and religious culture often treating

sex as shameful. How do you see this playing out around you? How has this affected your own thinking?

2. **Read Matthew 5:27-28 together.** Jesus uses His familiar pattern: "You have heard it said...but I tell you." How does this connect to the previous weeks where we've seen Jesus going deeper than external behavior to heart issues?
3. Kevin explained that the Greek word suggests it's not the first look but "the lingering look" —the deliberate choice to keep looking. How does distinguishing between temptation and sin help us understand what Jesus is addressing here?
4. The message contrasted "communion" (being fully known and loved) with "consumption" (using others for personal pleasure). Kevin said lust is "the desire for communion, diminished for consumption." How does this reframe how we think about sexual desire and relationships?
5. **Read Matthew 5:29-30 together.** Jesus speaks hyperbolically about gouging out your eye, but He's serious about going to extreme lengths. What does it look like to take radical steps to protect our hearts without falling into shame or legalism?
6. Kevin mentioned three practical steps: start with boundaries, cultivate broader vision, and cultivate deeper love. Which of these feels most challenging or necessary for you right now? How can we support each other in pursuing wholeness?

Key Takeaways

- Jesus addresses the heart behind adultery, not just the act
 - Sexual desire isn't bad—it's the lingering, deliberate harboring that becomes lust
 - We're made for communion (being fully known and loved), not consumption
 - Lust dehumanizes both ourselves and others
 - Jesus calls for radical steps to protect our hearts
 - The goal is wholeness, not shame or repression
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Notes