

Defeating Sin's Stronghold

Matthew 5:27-30

PODS Small Group Discussion Questions

1. Jesus teaches that lust begins in the heart and that looking with lustful intent is equivalent to adultery. How does understanding this deepen your view of personal purity and accountability?
2. Society bombards us with messages that promote sexual temptation? How can we guard our hearts and minds in such an environment?
3. What practical steps can you take to keep your covenant with your eyes and avoid lustful looks?
4. Jesus speaks about eliminating anything that causes us to sin, even if it's very precious to us. What might it look like in your life to 'cut off' or 'tear out' these things that threaten your spiritual health?
5. King David's story reminds us that even those after God's own heart can fall into sin when the heart is not guarded. How might a deeper heart surrender to Jesus help you avoid similar pitfalls?
6. The battle with lust is ultimately a heart issue, not just a situational one. How does focusing on heart transformation change your approach to temptation?
7. What role does accountability, community, and small groups play in helping you maintain purity and fight against the stronghold of sin?
8. Jesus' hyperbolic words about gouging out the eye or cutting off the hand highlight the seriousness of purity. How do you interpret the balance between radical action and grace in dealing with sin?
9. How does Psalm 51:10 ("Create in me a pure heart, O God...") shape your prayer for holiness?
10. Reflecting on this sermon, what are one or two specific steps you can commit to today to pursue a heart of holiness and honor Jesus in this area of your life?