

Becoming like Jesus in purity (Based on Chapter 10 of *Costly Grace*)

The Big Idea

Lust is impure because it is unbelief. It takes faith to be faithful.

Biblical Foundation

You have heard that it was said, “Do not commit adultery.” But now I tell you: anyone who looks at a woman and wants to possess her is guilty of committing adultery with her in his heart.

So if your right eye causes you to sin, take it out and throw it away! It is much better for you to lose a part of your body than to have your whole body thrown into hell. Matthew 5:27-29 (TEV)

Jesus teaches that sin starts inside us and works its way out into sinful behavior. Jesus died to pay for our sins of lust, but he rose from the dead to give us new life and a new way to confront the sin of lust. He wants to replace our instinct with the Holy Spirit so that, instead of being a slave to impulse, we are free to make pure choices. He knows you can't do it on your own and that's why he places the Holy Spirit inside you.

Bonhoeffer says, “Lust is impure because it is unbelief, and therefore it is to be shunned.” Why does lust represent our unbelief?

Discuss this statement by Bonhoeffer: “Jesus liberates marriage from selfish, evil desire, and consecrates it to the service of love, which is possible only in a life of discipleship.”

Kingdom Thinking:

- Anything that morally or spiritually traps—that causes me to fall into sin or to stay in sin—should be eliminated quickly and totally. (Matthew 5:27-32 TEV)
- To avoid impurity, I must be conscious and purposeful about what is around me, where I go, what I do, what I watch and read, and the conversations I have.
- Yet, the solution to sexual impurity cannot be external because the root cause is not external.
- The body is more than biological: “Don't you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and who was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourselves but to God; he bought you for a price. So use your bodies for God's glory.” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20 TEV)