
SERMON OUTLINE

Winning the war within

Matthew 5:27-34

- I. The battle for purity of mind (Matthew 5:27-30).
 - A. Adultery – The 7th commandment clearly stated that adultery is wrong (27).
 - B. Lust – Jesus calls us to address lust as adultery of the heart (28).
 - C. Jesus urges drastic measures against lust (29).
 - Control what you see and do (porn, movies, books, inappropriate relationships etc.)
 - Yield control of your mind to the Spirit for true strength (Galatians 5:16, 23; Philippians 4:8).
- II. The battle for permanence in marriage (Matthew 5:31-32).
 - A. Divorce regulated – The OT law *regulated divorce* by requiring a divorce certificate to *protect the woman's interests*.
 - B. Divorce avoided – Jesus calls us to completely *avoid divorce and remarriage* – except possibly in unique situations.
 - Jesus' point is not the exceptions, but that we maintain the permanent covenant of marriage.
 - Jesus allowed for no exceptions elsewhere (Mark 10:2-12; Luke 16:18).

*Only a pure heart is free to worship (Psalm 24:3-4).