

Enjoying Freedom from the Spirit of Immorality (Mt. 5:27-30) Mike Bickle

I. JESUS EXPOSED HOW THE SPIRIT OF IMMORALITY OPERATES AND DEFILES

- A. The foundational call in the Sermon on the Mount is to live out the 8 beatitudes (Mt. 5:3-12). I compare these to 8 beautiful and fragrant flowers in the garden in our heart. These flowers need to be carefully and continually cultivated as we weed the garden by resisting the negative influences related to our natural inward lusts (Mt. 5:21-48) and then to water it by adding the 5 positives or nutrients of life (Mt. 6:1-18) that impart supernatural strength to us. Jesus is not intending to give comprehensive teaching on freedom of the heart, but rather focuses on the need to make quality (deep and continual) decisions to attack the weeds in the garden of our heart.
- B. It is our glory to live free from the torment, shame and destruction of the spirit of immorality. Jesus' passion in this passage was to communicate how we could experience this part of our spiritual inheritance. The Pharisees sought to minimize the seventh commandment (that commanded us to not commit adultery) to only include sexual intercourse. Jesus revealed the operation of the spirit of immorality is rooted and grounded first in looking with lust (sexual imaginations and fantasies). As we can operate in the spirit of murder with words, so also we operate in the spirit of immorality with our thoughts. In great kindness, Jesus wanted His Bride to know that the destruction of the spirit of immorality works in all sexual activity (thought, word and deed) outside of the glory and sanctity of the marriage covenant between a man and woman.
- C. End-Time war: who rules the passions of the human heart? The Holy Spirit is restoring the First Commandment to first place in the Church. In Mt. 22:37, Jesus prophesied to Israel quoting Deut. 30:1-10, then He prayed for it in Jn. 17:26.
- Jesus said to him, You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. (Mt. 22:37-38)*
- D. Satan's primary strategy is to destroy the End-Time Church from within by seducing the Church to live in an adversarial spirit before God so that He will have to judge and destroy us (i.e., the way of Balaam, 2 Peter 2:15; Num. 22-25). In other words, Satan is releasing an unprecedented measure of the spirit of immorality which is the ultimate counterfeit to wholehearted love for Jesus. This strategy destroys the soul of the Church as it provides Satan the legal access to enter the human domain through these open windows for demonic activity (Rev. 9:21; 14:8; 17:1-4; 18:2-4, 9-10; 19:2).
- For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication... (Rev. 19:2)*
- E. The spirit of immorality originates and accelerates first from words and thoughts until it defiles the body by giving Satan legal access to enter, making us a "carrier" of demonic activity.
- Those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. 19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications... (Mt 15:18-19)*
- F. It defiles the body making it a vessel of darkness giving Satan legal access to enter and dominate.
- Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against (by granting legal access to Satan defile) his own body. (1 Cor. 6:18)*

II. SPIRIT OF IMMORALITY: OPERATES IN THE MIND AS IT IS FED BY “LOOKING”

You have heard that it was said..., 'You shall not commit adultery.' 28 But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. (Mt. 5:27-28)

- A. **Principle:** sexual purity and control is established first in area of the eyes. **The progression:** eye adultery leads to heart-adultery then to getting into circumstances that help physical adultery. Jesus wants us to understand the role of the eye gate as the primary battle front for stopping the operation of the spirit of immorality. This was not meant to be a comprehensive presentation of the path to freedom, but a focus on the area that is most commonly neglected: stepping over necessary boundaries. It is much easier to close the eye gate than to try to put out the raging fires of immoral passions. Job understood the spirit of the seventh commandment and the power of eye adultery.

I have made a covenant with my eyes; why then should I look upon a young woman? 9 If my heart has been enticed by a woman, or if I have lurked at my neighbor's door...(Job 31:1, 9)

- B. The false leaders in the Church were characterized by living defiled in the arena of the eye gate.

Having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. (2 Pet. 2:14)

III. OPERATING IN THE OPPOSITE SPIRIT OF IMMORALITY: PURE EYES

- A. Necessary boundaries (must also include our inner man): establishing a covenant with our eye gate. David affirmed that the eye gate was the battle front to walk perfect (mature) before God (Mt. 5:48)

I will behave wisely in a perfect way. Oh, when will You come to me (greater intimacy with God)? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. 3 I will set nothing wicked before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not cling to me. (Ps. 101:2-3)

- B. Acting in the opposite spirit involves a comprehensive lifestyle – (thought, word and deed)

Do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin (open doors that give legal access to Satan through our eyes, mouth, body, etc.), but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. (Rom. 6:13)

- C. Many issues contribute to being free from the spirit of immorality - **looking backward:** dealing with areas of bitterness related to injustice; **looking inward:** communion with the Holy Spirit; **looking upward:** heavenly reward (Mt. 6:18-20; Col. 3:1-4, 23-24); **looking forward:** End-Times (prepared by understanding the coming glory and crisis: 2 Pet. 3:14); **looking to others:** accountable open relationships (confession of weakness); **looking outward:** establishing boundaries (avoiding circumstances that stir up unholy passions) (Rom. 6:12, 13, 16, 19; Col. 3:5-10)

IV. ESTABLISHING BOUNDARIES – NOT SPARING WHAT IS MOST VALUABLE TO US

If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. (Mt. 5:29-30)