

***“The Heart of the Seventh Commandment” – Part 1***  
**Matthew 5:27-30**

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Jesus Christ calls men back to a true understanding of the Law of God.

**1. The Error of the Scribes and Pharisees** v. 27

(1) **Construed as a mere external standard!** *“You have heard that it was said to those of old,  
‘You shall not commit adultery.’”*

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(2) **Didn’t begin to address the core of marital faithfulness!**

**2. The True Interpretation** vv. 28-30

(1) **The True Standard Vindicated (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.”*

-1- **Jesus’ Authority**

-2- **Purity: First a matter of the heart!**

- The Standard: Absolute purity mentally and physically!

- Men’s rationalizations

- Sin against the marriage covenant begins with the inner thoughts

- Such violations directly affect the marriage relationship

-3- **The Priority: Singleness of devotion!**

**(2) The True Standard Maintained (29-30)**

**-1- Personal Responsibility  
in maintaining purity** *“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.”*

- Such purity can only be maintained if I take full responsibility for my sin!  
- We must take action, by the strength and grace of God!

**-2- Dealing ruthlessly with sin essential to maintaining purity**

- Realizing that anything that threatens purity is to be dealt with mercilessly  
– no matter how close, how arguably “legitimate” or “necessary.”

**Further Application:**