



TRANSFORMED

DEVOTIONS CONNECTING TEENS TO CHRIST

You have heard that it was said, “You shall not commit adultery.” But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

Matthew 5:27-30

Lust

He was one of the first people to hand in his biology test. After class, his friend asked, “So, how do you think you did?” His response was immediate confidence: “Oh, I aced it. No problem.” He sat in stunned silence a few days later with his graded test in front of him. A fat, red “F” stared back at him. How did this possibly happen? He was so sure of himself.

Imagine how the crowd around Jesus reacted when he said that adultery wasn’t just an outward issue. God’s expectations extend to even the hearts and minds of his people.

“Well, I’ve never actually *had sex*.”

Jesus’ words sink in; we realize that “never actually having sex” is not actually true, not from God’s perspective. Every dumb joke we make in the locker room. Every time we go too far on date. Every time our eyes find the dark corners of the internet. Our Sixth Commandment report card has that same red “F” staring at us.

In these moments we especially appreciate how Jesus respectfully held up God’s gift of sex, no matter how much others scrambled to jump up and tear it down. When we fail Sixth Commandment tests, we find answers only at the cross, where our Savior took our sinful words, actions, even our thoughts, and paid for them. Jesus aced the test for us; we are covered.

Through Jesus Christ and the waters of your baptism, God has made you a new creation. No sin owns you anymore! Treat the opposite sex with the same respect that God shows you. Be counter-cultural: join Jesus in holding up sex as a gift for husbands and wives. It’s simply a matter of the new heart God has given you.

PRAYER:

Lord Jesus Christ, create in me a clean heart that desires to respect your gift of sex the way you do. Let me find forgiveness for my failures at your cross. Amen.