

LUST

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The popular term for 'lust' is now 'sexual addiction.' However, that term can miss the mark due to the fact that "lusting" does not necessarily equate "addiction." Long before the term 'sexual addiction' was coined, Jesus talked about lust in the Sermon on the Mount.

(Matthew 5: 27) Jesus made a connection between "looking" and "lusting." His statement should reinforce for us the seriousness of this sin.

(Job 31: 1) Because of the connection between looking and lusting, it is necessary to take great care what we see, both in our mind and with our eyes.

(Mark 7: 20- 23) Lust finds its source in the heart. This tells us two things:

1. It is deep-rooted
2. We know the level we must guard if we are to battle lust

(James 1: 14, 15) In the arena of the mind, we either resist or give in to temptation. The close connection between our heart and mind cannot be overlooked. When you want something sinful (heart), your mind will devise a strategy (think) to bring it to pass.

(1 John 2: 15, 16) There is no way to win the battle by rationalizing that lust is O.K. Older manuscripts say "the lust of the flesh" while the NIV says "the cravings of the sinful man." Both make it clear that it is sin and requires repentance and confession.

(1 Thessalonians 5: 22; 2 Samuel 11) Since outward stimuli serve as difficulties for us to handle, we need to avoid anything that will eventually lead us to sin.

(Phil. 2: 5; Ephesians 4: 23) Since we lose or win every battle in the mind, we should set our minds on things which please God. We need God's perspective.

(I Cor. 6: 18- 20) Remember whenever you are tempted that Christ lives in you. A key to winning this war is to fight it with Christ's power and weaponry (Ephesians 6:10-18).

(Psalm 4: 7; 16: 11) There is always more joy in knowing and serving God than there is in sinning

(I Corinthians 10: 31) Develop a worldview that sees everything in it's proportion to God

(I Cor. 10: 12) Beware of assuming that past success in dealing with lust guarantees future victory

Memory Verses: I Corinthians 6: 14- 18

THE GOSPEL MINISTRY OF SANCTIFICATION (by Walter Marshall)

HOLINESS (by Joel Beeke)