

Identifying Lust

Sexual desire is not itself evil:

1 Timothy 4:4 - *For every creature [created thing] of God is good, and nothing is to be refused, if it is received with thanksgiving:*

Hebrews 13:4 - *Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.*

Genesis 1:27-28 - *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it:"*

Lust is sexual desire beyond the boundaries set by God, the root of the tree whose fruit is adultery: Matthew 5:27-30 - *"You have heard that it was said by those of old, You shall not commit adultery: But I say to you, that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 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 should perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. 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."*

Proverbs 6:25-26 - *Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her allure you with her eyelids. For by means of a harlot a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life.*

The Bible Against Lust

Lust's dehumanising effects: Genesis 1:27-28

Leviticus 19:18 - *You shall love your neighbour as yourself.*

Godly relationships are a major theme of Proverbs (a father's advice to his son; chapters 5-7; ending).

A grand deception: Proverbs 5:3-5 - *For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil: but her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell.*

The ruin of King David, leading into deceit, murder and perpetual shame:

2 Samuel 11:1-5 – *It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. Then it happened one evening that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon. And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, "Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house. And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, "I am with child."*

1 Kings 15:5 - *Because David did that which was right in the eyes of the LORD, and turned not aside from any thing that he commanded him all the days of his life, save only in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.*

Another Biblical example: Samson (Judges 14-16).

A crime without a cause – Proverbs 6:30-32 - *Men do not despise a thief, if he steals to satisfy his soul when he is hungry; 31 but if he is found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house. 32 But whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding: he that*

does it destroys his own soul.

Matthew 5:27-30 - *“You have heard that it was said by those of old ...”*

Proverbs 6:25-29 - *Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her allure you with her eyelids. For by means of a harlot a man is reduced to a crust of bread: and an adulteress will prey upon his precious life. Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned? So he that goes in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever touches her shall not be innocent.*

Fighting Against Lust

Colossians 2:20 – *Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations – do not touch, do not taste, do not handle, which all concern things which perish with the using – according to the commandments and doctrines of men? These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.*

Matthew 5:29-30 *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 should perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. 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.”*

Colossians 3:5 - *Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:*

Job 31:1 - *I have made a covenant with my eyes; why then should I look upon a young woman?*

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 - *Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as you have received of us how you ought to walk and to please God, so you would abound more and more. For you know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that you should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honour; not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God: that no-one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. For God did not call us to uncleanness, but to holiness. Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given unto us his Holy Spirit.*

Proverbs 7:10 - *And, a woman met him with the attire of an harlot, and a crafty heart.*

Galatians 5:16 - *This I say then: walk in the Spirit, and you will not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*

1 Corinthians 7:9 - *But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn.*

Ephesians 5:25-28 - *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it ... So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loves his wife loves himself.*

Matthew 19:4-6 - *And he answered and said unto them, “Have you not read, that he who made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said, For this reason shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and the two shall become one flesh? Therefore they are no more two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”*

2 Peter 2:9-10 : *The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished: But chiefly those that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise authority.*