

Truth and Love – Part 3

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The Big Picture Truth: Obeying God's sexual ethic is God's best for me.

Sexual Ethic #1: Protect your heart from sexual temptation.

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.'²⁸ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell.³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away . . ."

Matthew 5:27-30a (English Standard Version)

Two Ways to Protect Your Heart

- Make decisions of the will to redirect each spark of sexual temptation.

Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, . . .
2 Timothy 2:22 (New Living Translation)

- Arrange life and choose boundaries that will reduce temptation.

Sexual Ethic #2: Do not participate in any sexual sin.

For you remember what we taught you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.³ God's will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin.⁴ Then each of you will control his own body and live in holiness and honor –⁵ not in lustful passion like the pagans who do not know God and his ways.⁶ Never harm or cheat a fellow believer in this matter by violating his wife, for the Lord avenges all such sins, as we have solemnly warned you before.⁷ God has called us to live holy lives, not impure lives.⁸ Therefore, anyone who refuses to live by these rules is not disobeying human teaching but is rejecting God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

1 Thessalonians 4:2-8 (NLT)

Sexual sin = Greek, *pornia* = sex outside of marriage

- If married, remain sexually faithful to your marriage partner.
- If single, remain chaste.