

## The Seven Deadly Sins – A Beginning

I once again apologize for being so long between lessons. I do hope that one day things are more settled in my life and I can get back into focus on these lessons. Please pray for me that this will happen. Also, I am considering potentially publishing some guest commentaries from time to time. If you would be interested in doing a guest commentary submit it to me for review. I will have a few guidelines. First, it must be well written and understandable by most readers of the English language. Next, it must be in agreement with the beliefs stated on this website. Finally, I reserve the right to reject or edit any commentary that is submitted. I will not publish an edited version of your work without your permission (except for something like a spelling error).

Now, for today's lesson I want to introduce what has been referred to as the "Seven Deadly Sins." While this list is not directly related in the Bible, and others are, I think that it's worthwhile to take a look at these and see how they relate to us. I want to state clearly that I am NOT endorsing these as the "Seven Deadly Sins" since they are identified outside of the canon of Scripture by a pope, who I do not recognize as being of any more authority than anyone else.

In today's less I'm going to just introduce these sins and

The sins are: lust, gluttony, greed, sloth, wrath, envy, and pride. Clearly each of these can be identified as sin. Furthermore, James 2:10 says, "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one *point*, he is guilty of all." So it can be said, then, that the breaking of any commandment, the committing of any sin, is equal to the committing of any other sin.

With that said let's begin by looking at the first of these sins, the sin of lust. A whole series of lessons could probably be written about this one sin. According to Webster's dictionary lust is a longing desire; an eagerness to possess or enjoy. While lust could be applied to many aspects of life, it's usual application is sexual desire.

I have often heard married men say that they can look at an attractive woman as long as they don't touch. There are many problems with this, however. First of all, Jesus said, "whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." (Matthew 5:28). So according to Jesus if a married man is looking at a woman with sexual desire that it's no different than going all the way with an affair.

Now I'm sure that there are men out there saying, "But I can't help but notice an attractive woman." I agree with that. So how does that line up with what I've just said? Well, there's a difference between noticing a woman and "checking her out." When you notice that a woman is attractive but do not leer at her or talk about her sexually then you're exercising self control. It is when those thoughts go beyond purely noticing her attractiveness to thoughts of what it would be like to be involved with her sexually that it becomes lust. Now while I've directed this at men the same applies to women.

So, then, what about unmarried men? Is it wrong for unmarried men? The answer is yes. In the New Testament we're told to abstain from fornication (Acts 15:20, 29, 1 Thessalonians

4:3). Fornication is any sexual immorality (sex outside of a marriage between one man and one woman). As Jesus applied the law to adultery it would be reasonable that it also applies to the more broad sin of fornication, of which adultery is a part.

Lust would appear to me to break, at least in some instances, two of the commandments. First, the seventh commandment is “Thou shalt not commit adultery.” Clearly Jesus taught that lust broke this commandment. I think also that it breaks the tenth commandment, “thou shalt not covet.” In explaining what you shouldn’t covet your neighbor’s wife and his maidservant are among those things that are listed. Since to covet is to desire to have what is not yours then lust breaks this commandment.

Galatians 5:16-21 says:

- (16) *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.
- (17) For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.
- (18) But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.
- (19) Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,
- (20) Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,
- (21) Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

I wanted to bring this Scripture to light to point out that while lust is not specifically laid out in this list of works of the flesh (sins) it is introduced as the root cause. As we’ll see in coming lessons, gluttony, greed, and envy are really other words for lust when applied to non-sexual circumstances. So lust, then, is at the root of everything. James 1:14-15 says:

- (14) But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.
- (15) Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

And then 1 John 2:16-17 says:

- (16) For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.
- (17) And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

There are many more Scriptures which could be used to relate to lust, but I won’t bore you with those. Let’s just leave it to say that lust is, indeed a sin which Christians should avoid.

So, how do we avoid lust? The answer is the Holy Ghost. We’re told in the Scriptures that there is a warfare going on between the inward man and the outward man. We should keep the outward man under subjection to the inward man. It’s a constant struggle that even the

Apostle Paul admitted that he failed at (Romans 7). The goal, though, is to be more Christlike each and every day.

I hope that this lesson has been beneficial to you. If you're struggling with the sin of lust and would like for me to pray for you drop me an email. I'll be glad to call you back if you want to include a phone number.

Please pray that God would open things up so that I can continue this series of lessons more steadily than I have been for the past year or so.

Yours in Christ,

Bro. John Rich