

## AIMING FOR THE BULL'S EYE

August 2, 2014 Matthew 5:27-30 by Mark Lundgren  
The Truly Liberated Life, Part 10

**MAIN IDEA:** Adultery; don't do it! Don't even think about it!

You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

**Matthew 5:27-28** ESV

The law gives us a target for our behavior; don't commit adultery. Jesus is saying just hitting the target isn't good enough, it isn't Kingdom standard. He gives us a bull's eye within the target to aim for; don't look at woman with lustful intent.

*Appreciating beauty is not the same as lust. A man can find a woman attractive, beautiful and lovely without her body being the sole focus of that attention. Lust is a desire for that which is not ours to have: the body of a person who does not belong to us. When a man ogles a woman's chest, legs or derriere, he is focusing on the parts of her that are not his, and yet he takes them visually and mentally, cheapening the woman and demeaning himself. That is not appreciation: That is lust. – Phylicia Masonheimer*

We are citizens of God's kingdom and as such we live by his rules, his standards. God didn't come up with the standard. He is the standard. God didn't invent the Ten Commandments. They are a reflection of who He is.

**1. We want our lives to look like Jesus. He is the center of the BULL'S EYE.**

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. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

**Matthew 5:29-30** ESV

**2. Jesus is not being literal here. He is exaggerating to make a point.**

**If something is causing you to sin, GET RID OF IT. Don't mess around.**

Hell- the Greek word is *gehenna*. A valley near Jerusalem used as a dump. Along with the smell of rotting matter, the flies and the rodents, there was a smoldering fire that was always going. Jesus is telling his audience, this is not some place you want to go.

The Bible presents hell as a place of darkness and also of eternal fire.

Hell is a place where God is not, a place of total separation from God.

**3. We are not talking about adding more rules. We are talking about not offending the Holy Spirit who lives within us. So, if this means you need to change your behavior in order not to sin, DO IT.**

Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. **1 Cor.6:18-20** NIV