

## 引言 INTRODUCTION

A product being misused or abused will not take away its original purpose. We often see people zip through the traffic as if they were driving a race-car. They enjoy their thrill but neglect the safety of others. All they can achieve is to get to their destination a few minutes earlier. But some of those drivers end up paying a huge cost when they cause an accident. An automobile is a means of transportation, regardless of whether you own a luxurious car or a humble tin-can with four wheels. It serves its intended function if it can bring you safely from point A to point B. Similarly, we need to ask God's original purpose when He creates a need in us. In our passage today, Jesus talks about intimacy between opposite genders. Let us be clear, there is nothing wrong about sex. God created Eve for Adam for good purposes, one of which is to have an intimate relationship. Hollywood did not invent sex, God did! Nowadays, some people feel shameful and dirty about the topic. The fallen world distorts something beautiful that God created. But a gift being misused or abused will not take away its original purpose. We can fully enjoy God's blessing when we go back to His design. According to God, an intimate relationship is restricted to within a marriage. Anything beyond that confine is considered as adultery. In our passage today, Jesus goes back to the core of the matter. Adultery is not only about motions, but our motives. God wants us to have a pure heart, so that we will have clean actions. When we set the course straight, it will not only enrich our lives, benefit others but also glorify God.

## 解釋 EXPLANATION

### 1. 心靈的保護 Security of Our Hearts (v. 27-28)

Jesus begins by cautioning us the security of our hearts. He says in verses 27-28: **27 “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.”** Jesus corrected people's misconception about adultery. “You shall not commit adultery” is the 7<sup>th</sup> Commandment. People will not violate God's command if they do not participate in the act. That should be good enough, is it not? However, that mandate ties in to the 10<sup>th</sup> Commandment. Exodus 20:17 specifies: **“...you shall not covet your neighbor's wife...”** To covet something is to crave after it in our hearts. God told His people the importance to secure their hearts. Therefore, Jesus equates committing adultery in our hearts to committing adultery in our bodies. Also, the thought of adultery is triggered by what a man sees. That was exactly the sequence how king David committed adultery. The incident is recorded in 2 Samuel 11. One day, David got up from his afternoon nap. He saw a beautiful woman bathing when he was walking on the roof top of his palace. He coveted that lady. Therefore, he sent his officials to check on her background. Her name was Bathsheba, the wife of a loyal general named Uriah. David did not care that Bathsheba was a married woman. He asked his assistants to bring her to the palace anyway. David thus committed

adultery. To cover up his sin, David devised a wicked scheme and caused Uriah to perish in a battle. David violated a woman and murdered her husband. By God's grace, David later repented. He wrote Psalm 51 as a confession. He says in verse 10: **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.** David asks God to do a spiritual heart surgery to restore him to the right path. When David's heart was right with God, so would his actions. David's sins began in his eyes. Sometimes we cannot prevent what we see. But we can control how we react to what we see. Someone said it right: you cannot stop a bird from landing on your head; but you can keep it from building a nest in your hair! We can choose the right response regardless of what we see and think. The key question to ask is what occupies our mind? What you see as important will direct your actions. Some people think of money, entertainment or sports all the time. Others always look for opportunities to help people, encourage them or share God's blessings. The difference is what is in your heart. Paul tells us in Philippians 4:8 – **Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.** We must fill our minds with positive things that please God. Those thoughts will motivate us to glorify God and edify others. It all begins from God's Word. We must saturate our mind with God's truth on a daily basis. God's standards will help us discern right from wrong. Godly thinking will lead to godly actions. You must find time to read God's Word no matter how busy you are. Otherwise, all the noise from the internet and the world will drown your ears and squeeze out God's voice. Jesus mentions about what we see. May I say a word of encouragement to the sisters among us? What you wear will affect how men see you. Perhaps you want to catch up with the fashion trend, but you may stumble some brothers as you do so. Do not say to yourself: "I don't care! That's not my problem." God cares about you. He hopes that you will be a good witness for Him. I am not asking you to dress like an Amish lady. The key is decency. You can consult your husband, parents or a mature sister if you need advice.

## 2. 犯罪的嚴重 Severity of Sins (v. 29-30)

Jesus reminds us about the security of our hearts. Next, He brings up the severity of sins. Verses 29-30 sound quite brutal. Does Jesus really want us to pluck our eye and chop our hand when we sin? If that is so, then there will be a lot of single-eyed and one-handed believers in the world and in heaven! Will losing a body part stop a person from sinning? A single-eyed man who wants to see unwholesome things can still do so with the remaining eye. In fact, those images will flood his mind even if he goes blind! Likewise, a one-handed thief can continue to steal with another hand. He can plan a bank heist with his brain even if he has no hand! Jesus is using exaggeration to make a point. He means that it is wiser to lose a body part, than to allow it to contaminate the whole person. Sin will damage our mind. It may distant our relationship with others. Most importantly, sin alienates us from God. Sinful acts begin with sinful thoughts. Therefore, we must cut off ideas that cause us to sin like getting rid of a body part. Paul puts it this way in Colossians 3:5 – **Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.** Paul mentions a few sins that are related to our discussion of adultery. He

says that we must treat sin decisively: put it to death! We must cut off sinful thoughts like removing a tumor by a surgery. That lump of bad tissue will stop growing after you cut it off. There must not be any compromise. Everything sounds passive and gloomy. There are some positive actions we can take Paul encourages us in 2 Timothy 2:22 – **So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.** “Youthful passions” do not only affect young people. They are the cravings that lead us to sin like a spiritually immature person. Paul says we must flee from those pursuits. Instead, we must surround ourselves with godly people. I call it positive peer pressure. You will imitate what other people do when you are in a group setting. I always thank God for a positive environment in my spiritual growth. Many Bible verses that I can recite today are from forty years ago when I first became a Christian. At that time, we memorized the Scripture every week in youth fellowship. I did it because everyone else was doing it. We were also told to highlight verses in our Bibles and write down insights when we studied the Bible. Brothers and sisters: what people do you often mingle with? What do they usually do and talk about? We all need a social life and entertainment. Also, Paul encourages us to have friendship with non-believers. Otherwise, to whom do you share the gospel if all you know are Christians? The point is, do your friends help you grow in your spiritual life? If some activities will lure you away from the Lord, then perhaps you need to cut them off. In extreme cases, you may need to cut off some friendship so that you can build a stronger relationship with the Lord. You may need to reset your priorities if some friends keep asking you to join activities on Friday evenings and Sunday mornings. Instead of going out with them, you can invite them to church! Since our topic is on intimacy, I need to speak to the single people among us. You must draw a clear boundary with people of the opposite gender. Do not put yourself in an environment that Satan can tempt you. Do not be so naïve to believe that you can overcome enticement by your own strength. God knows your weakness, and so does the devil. Run from temptation and run to the Lord for help!

### 3. 婚姻的神聖 Sanctity of Marriage (v. 31-32)

Jesus asks us to be mindful about the security of our hearts, and He warns us about the severity of sins. Thirdly, the Lord mentions the sanctity of marriage. Jesus talks about divorce in verses 31-32. The topic is related to the previous context about adultery. One common reason for a man to divorce his wife is because he wants to be with another woman. In Jesus’ days, much like today, a man could end a marriage by signing a divorce paper. It was based on Deuteronomy 24:1 – **If a man marries a woman who becomes displeasing to him because he finds something indecent about her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, give it to her and sends her from his house.** What is considered “indecent?” The word is usually translated as “nakedness” or “uncleanness” in the Old Testament. Chapter 22 of the same book gives a scenario about a woman committing adultery before the marriage. God sees purity during singleness as important. Therefore, premarital relationship unknown to the husband is a legitimate reason for a divorce. However, some men in Jesus’ time made up excuses to end their marriages. Perhaps his wife does not cook the way he likes, she cannot bear a son or she becomes less attractive as she ages. Jesus states that divorce is a big deal. He says in verse 32: **“But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual**

immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.” The only ground for divorce is unfaithfulness. Otherwise, the husband would be treating his wife like an adulteress if he sends her away casually. Her next husband in a future marriage will also be guilty of the same sin. Marriage is sacred in God’s eyes. It does not begin in a court or a church. It started in the Garden of Eden. Jesus recalls God’s creation in Mark 10:6-9 – 6 “But at the beginning of creation God ‘made them male and female.’ 7 ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, 8 and the two will become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. 9 Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.” God gives every man the same commands He gave Adam. He will leave his parents and cleave with his wife. From then on, the two persons will become one – physically, emotionally and spiritually. We must admit that planning a ceremony needs a lot of work, but staying married is even harder. A young sister once said this about her marriage: “It’s easy to love a man, but it’s hard to live with him.” Any married person will agree with that. Things will get less romantic after you said “I do.” You will talk less about fancy dinner and how to chill, but you switch topics to dirty diapers and bills. Moreover, unlike buying clothes or an appliance, there is no return. Marriage is a serious matter. It takes a lot of self-sacrifice to make it work. Let me share some general advice with our single brothers and sisters. First, date a Christian only. That person may become your future spouse. It is very difficult for two persons of contrasting worldviews to live together. Issues like using time and money, and career and parenting will be hard to compromise. Second, do not get married unless you are ready to commit yourself to a person. A Christian pre-marital counseling will be quite helpful. As your pastor, I am accountable to this church. In general, I will officiate a wedding ceremony only if both parties are believers and they have completed a counseling course. The lessons help both persons understand the Biblical meaning of a marriage. It is also an opportunity to check if both persons are ready. In some cases, it may be wiser to postpone the wedding to give both persons more time to think it over.

## 結論 CONCLUSION

When we set the course straight, God blessings will not only enrich our lives, benefit others but also glorify the Lord. God loves us more than we can imagine. He wants to give us the best gifts. The condition is that we must enjoy His blessings the ways He intends. Adultery is an obvious violation of God’s will. People twist something beautiful God created for their selfish pleasure. They see others as tools to use, but not people to love and cherish. Perhaps you are an innocent victim of others’ sins. You cannot change your past. But God can give you a fresh start. Come to Him and let Him heal your wounds. Perhaps you are involved in some of the sins we discussed today. God will give you the strength to cut them off. He also has sufficient grace to forgive you. Confess your sins to Him and let Him wipe you clean.

## 引言 INTRODUCTION

一件產品被誤用或濫用並不會取消它原來的用途。我們經常看到一些人開車好像在駕駛賽車一樣。他們只顧及享受刺激但卻忽略了別人的安全。他們最多也只能提前幾分鐘到達目的地。但一些司機在發生事故時卻要付出沉重的代價。汽車是一種交通工具，無論你開的是豪華車還是鐵皮車。它的功用是把你安全地從一個地方帶到另一個地方。同樣，當神在我們身上創造了某種需要時，我們需要問祂最初的目的。在我們今天的經文中，耶穌談到異性之間的親密關係。讓我們肯定一件事，性關係本身並沒有什麼錯。神為亞當創造夏娃是有祂的美意，其中之一就是有親密關係。性不是好萊塢發明的，而是神發明的！如今，有些人對這個話題感到羞恥和骯髒，是因為墮落的世界扭曲了神創造的美好事物。但被誤用或濫用的禮物並不會取消它最初的用途。當我們回到神的設計時，我們就能充分享受神的祝福。根據神的旨意，親密關係只能在婚姻之中進行。任何超越這個界限的行為都被視為姦淫。在我們今天的經文中，耶穌回到了問題的核心。姦淫不僅涉及行為，重點是我們的動機。神希望我們有一顆清潔的心，這樣我們就有清潔的行為。當我們走在正路時，不僅會祝福自己的生命，使別人得益處，而且能夠榮耀神。

## 解釋 EXPLANATION

### 1. 心靈的保護 Security of Our Hearts (v. 27-28)

耶穌首先提醒我們要保護自己的心靈。祂在第 27 至 28 節中說：27 「你們聽見有話說：『不可姦淫。』28 只是我告訴你們，凡看見婦女就動淫念的，這人心裡已經與他犯姦淫了。」耶穌糾正了人們對姦淫的誤解。「不可姦淫」是十誡中的第七條誡命。人們如果沒有行出來，就不算違反神的命令。這應該足夠好了，不是嗎？然而，那條命令與第十誡有關。出埃及記 20:17 明確指出：「...不可貪戀人的妻子...」。貪心就是渴望把東西據為己有。神告訴祂的子民保護自己的心靈的重要性。因此，耶穌將心裡面的姦淫等同於身體上的姦淫。此外，姦淫的慾望是從所看到的事物引起的。這正是大衛王犯姦淫的過程。這件事記載在《撒母耳記下》第 11 章中。有一天，大衛午睡後起床。當他在皇宮的屋頂上散步時，他看到一個美麗的女士正在洗澡。他想要佔有那個女人。於是，他派官員去調查她的背景。她的名字叫拔示巴，是一位名叫烏利亞的忠心將軍的妻子。大衛不在乎拔示巴是有夫之婦。他要求助手將她帶進了皇宮，然後親近

她。為了掩蓋自己的罪，大衛設計了一個邪惡的計劃，使烏利亞死在戰場。大衛侵犯了一名婦女並殺死了她的丈夫。靠著神的恩典，大衛後來悔改了。他寫了詩篇 51 篇作為懺悔。他在第 10 節中說：神啊，求你為我造清潔的心，使我裡面重新有正直的靈。大衛請求神為他做一次心靈的手術，使他回到正路。當大衛的心與神和好時，他便有正確的行為。大衛的罪是從他的眼睛開始的。有時候我們無法控制我們所看到的事情。但我們可以控制看了之後的反應。有人說得對：你無法阻止一隻鳥降落在你頭上；但你可以阻止牠在你的頭上築巢！無論我們看到什麼、想到什麼，我們都可以選擇正確的回應。關鍵是什麼事情佔據了我們的思想？你認為重要的事情將指導你的行動。有些人整天總是想著金錢、娛樂或球賽。另外有些人總是尋找機會幫助別人、鼓勵他們或分享神的祝福。區別在於你的心在想什麼。保羅在腓立比書 4:8 中告訴我們：弟兄們，我還有未盡的話：凡是真實的、可敬的、公義的、清潔的、可愛的、有美名的，若有什麼德行，若有什麼稱讚，這些事你們都要思念。我們必須用討神喜悅的事物充滿我們的心。這些意念會激勵我們榮耀神並造就他人。這一切都從神的話語開始。我們必須每天讓神的真理充滿我們的思想。這樣神的標準便會幫助我們辨別是非。敬虔的思想會帶來敬虔的行為。因此無論多忙，你都必須抽出時間來讀神的話語。否則，網路和世界的噪音都會淹沒你的耳朵並阻擋神的聲音。耶穌提到我們所看到的東西。我可以向中間的姐妹們說一句勉勵的話嗎？(這些鼓勵也適用於各位家中的女兒) 妳的穿著會影響男士們對你的看法。也許妳想要追趕潮流，但妳可能會絆倒一些弟兄。不要對自己說：「我不在乎！這不是我的問題。」神關心妳，祂希望妳成為祂有效的見證人。我並不是要求你穿得像阿米甚 (Amish) 的女士。重點是要端裝。如果妳需要建議，妳可以問一下自己的丈夫、父母或一些成熟的姐妹。

## 2. 犯罪的嚴重 Severity of Sins (v. 29-30)

耶穌告訴我們要保護自己的心靈。接下來，祂提出犯罪的嚴重性。第 29-30 節聽起來相當殘忍。當我們犯罪時，耶穌真的要我們剝掉眼睛並砍斷手嗎？如果真的是這樣，那麼，世界上和天堂裡就會有很多獨眼龍和獨臂俠的信徒了！失去身體的一部分真的能阻止一個人犯罪嗎？一個獨眼的人想要看不該看的事物，仍然可以用剩下的一隻眼睛去看。事實上，即使他眼瞎了，那些影像還是會存在他的腦中！同樣，失去一隻手的小偷可以用另一隻手繼續偷竊。即使沒有手，他也能用腦子策劃打劫銀行！耶穌是用誇張的手法來表達。祂的意思是，失去身體的一部分總比讓它污染整個人更好。罪會損害我們的思想，它也可能會疏遠我們與別人的關係。最重要的是，罪使我們與神隔離。罪惡的行為始於罪惡的思想。因此，我們必須切斷那些導致我們犯罪的意念，好像切除身體的器官。保羅在歌羅西書 3:5 中這樣說：所以，要治死你們在地上的肢體，

就如淫亂、污穢、邪情、惡慾，和貪婪。保羅列出一些與我們討論姦淫有關的罪。他說我們必須果斷地對付罪：把它們治死！我們必須斷絕罪的念頭，好像做手術切除腫瘤。當你那些壞的組織切掉後，它就會停止生長。決不能有任何妥協。一切聽起來都很消極而且灰陰。我們當然可以採取一些積極的行動。保羅在提摩太後書 2:22 中鼓勵我們：**你要逃避少年的私慾，同那清心禱告的人追求公義、信德、仁愛、和平。**「少年的私慾」不僅僅影響年輕人。它們是導致我們像靈命不成熟的人一樣犯罪的慾望。保羅說我們必須逃避這些追求。相反，我們必須靠近一些敬虔的人。我稱之為正面的同伴壓力。當你在團體的環境中時，你會模仿其他人的行為。我感謝神在我靈命成長的初期為我提供一個積極的環境。我今天能背誦的許多經文都是四十年前我剛信主時背的。那時我們每周青少年團契都背聖經。我那樣做是因為所有人都在背誦。老師們也鼓勵我們畫聖經和在聖經上記筆記。弟兄姐妹們：你經常和哪些人來往？他們通常做什麼、談論什麼話題？我們都需要社交生活和娛樂。此外，保羅也鼓勵我們與非信徒建立友誼。畢竟，如果你的所有朋友都是基督徒，你向誰傳福音呢？關鍵是，你的朋友是否幫助你的靈命成長？如果一些活動會引誘你遠離主，那麼也許你需要切斷它們。在極端的情況下，你可能需要切斷一些友誼，使你和主建立更穩固的關係。如果一些朋友一直邀請你參加週五晚上和周日早上的活動，你可能需要調整你的優先順序。與其和他們出去玩，你可以邀請他們來聚會！由於我們的主題是親密關係，我需要鼓勵一些單身的弟兄姐妹。你必須和異性保持界線。不要讓撒但把你放在試探的環境中。也不要過份天真地以為你可以靠自己勝過誘惑。神知道你的軟弱，魔鬼也知道。要遠離試探，向主尋求幫助！

### 3. 婚姻的神聖 Sanctity of Marriage (v. 31-32)

耶穌要求我們注意心靈的保護，並警告我們犯罪的嚴重性。第三，主指出婚姻的神聖。耶穌在第 31-32 節談到離婚。那個課題與之前提到的姦淫有關。離婚的一個常見原因是一個男士想要和另一個女士在一起。在耶穌時代，就像今天一樣，男人可以通過簽署離婚協議來結束婚姻。其根據是在申命記 24:1 – **「人若娶妻以後，見他有什麼不合理的事，不喜悅他，就可以寫休書交在他手中，打發他離開夫家。」**什麼是「不合理的事」？在舊約中，這個用詞通常被翻譯為「露體」或「不潔」。申命記第 22 章列出一個例子，說到一個女人在婚前與別人有關係。神看單身時期的貞潔很重要。因此，丈夫不知情的婚前關係是離婚的正當理由。然而，耶穌時代的一些男人卻找藉口結束婚姻。也許他的妻子燒的菜不合他的口胃，她無法生男孩，或者隨著年齡的增長，她變得不再那麼有吸引力。耶穌說離婚是一件大事。祂在第 32 節說：**「只是我告訴你們，凡休妻的，若不是為淫亂的緣故，就是叫他作淫婦了；人若娶這被休的婦人，也是**

犯姦淫了。」離婚的唯一理由是不忠。否則丈夫隨便把妻子送走，就等於把她當作淫婦。她未來婚姻中的丈夫也會被視為犯同樣的罪。婚姻在神眼中是神聖的。婚姻不是從法院或教堂開始的，婚姻乃是在伊甸園開始的。耶穌在馬可福音 10:6-9 中回顧神的創造：6「但從起初創造的時候，神造人是造男造女。7因此，人要離開父母，與妻子連合，二人成為一體。8 既然如此，夫妻不再是兩個人，乃是一體的了。9 所以神配合的，人不可分開。」神給每個男人的命令與祂給亞當的命令是一樣的。他要離開父母，與妻子連合。從那時起，兩個人將在身體上、情感上和靈裡面合而為一。我們必須承認，計劃一場婚禮需要做很多準備，但維持婚姻就更富挑戰性。一位年輕的姐妹曾這樣評價自己的婚姻：「愛一個男人很容易，但和他一起生活卻很難。」任何已婚人士都會同意這一點。當你說「我願意」之後，事情就會變得不那麼浪漫了。你會少談論精緻的晚餐和休閒活動，你會把話題轉移到尿布和賬單上。此外，與購買衣服或電器不同，婚姻是不能退貨的。婚姻是一件嚴肅的事情，需要很多的自我犧牲才能成功的。讓我給單身的弟兄姐妹一些建議。首先，你只應該和基督徒約會。那個人可能會成為你未來的配偶。兩個世界觀截然不同的人很難生活在一起。時間和金錢的使用、事業和教養兒女等事情是很難妥協的。其次，除非你準備好將自己委身給一個人，否則不要結婚。基督徒的婚前輔導會很有幫助。作為你們的牧師，我需要向這個教會負責。一般來說，只有當雙方都是信徒並且完成了輔導課程時，我才會主持婚禮。課程幫助雙方了解婚姻的聖經含義。這也是評估兩個人是否準備好的機會。在某些情況下，推遲婚禮可能是更明智的做法，讓雙方有更多時間考慮。

## 結論 CONCLUSION

當我們走在正路時，不僅會祝福自己的生命，使別人得益處，而且能夠榮耀神。神愛我們超乎我們的想像。祂希望給我們最好的禮物。條件是我們必須按照神安排的方式享受祂的祝福。姦淫明顯是違背神的旨意。人們為了自私的享樂而扭曲了神創造美麗的事物。他們將別人當作可以利用的工具，而不是可以去愛和珍惜的對象。也許你是別人犯罪的無辜受害者。你無法改變你的過去，但神可以給你一個新的開始。來到祂面前，讓祂醫治你的傷口。又或許你犯了我們今天討論的一些罪。神能夠給你力量去對付它們。祂也有足夠的恩典來饒恕你。你要向神承認你的罪，讓祂把你洗乾淨。