

1 2 **Matthew 5:28-30**

- *But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*
- *And if your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it from you! For it is better for you that one of your members be destroyed than your whole body be thrown into hell.*
- *And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it from you! For it is better for you that one of your limbs be destroyed than your whole body go into hell.*

3 **Sound Severe?**

- When the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City was bombed on April 19, 1995, one woman was trapped under a concrete beam.
- Rescuers gave her a choice between two options:
 - She could let them saw off her leg or
 - She could bleed to death
- She chose to lose her leg instead of her life.

4 **Lust is not a victimless crime**

- Jesus used the RIGHT hand and the RIGHT eye for a reason.
 - Eliminating a person's right eye or right hand would not solve the problem of lust.
 - So why did Jesus include this in His command?
- Symbolic of authority and power.
 - Jesus wanted to make the severity of the sin of lust more apparent.
 - To make people see the CONSEQUENCES of lust.

5 **Galatians 6:8**

- *Because the one who sows to his own flesh will reap corruption from the flesh, but the one who sows to the Spirit will reap eternal life from the Spirit.*

6 **The Right Eye**

- Usually the dominant eye – one that controls the body.
- The eye tells much about the body. *"The light of the body is the eye"* (Matthew 6:22).
 - Lust deprives us of God's light – we lack wisdom when we lust.
 - Lust also dims the light that should shine from our eyes.
- The eye is also used figuratively to refer to our character – see Matthew 7:5.

7 **Psalm 19:8**

- *The precepts of Yahweh are right, making the heart rejoice. The command of Yahweh is pure, enlightening the eyes.*
- Our eyes should shine – they cannot do so when we are controlled by lust.

8 **Blindness**

- Losing an eye = loss of some vision
- 2 Peter 1:9 says that anyone who is NOT growing spiritually (and therefore would still be in bondage to lust) is "blind and cannot see afar off" (*myopia*) "and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins."

- Jesus died to save you from “eyes full of adultery.”

9 **A Symbol of Reproach**

- When Israel rejected God as a leader and demanded a king, a neighboring nation surrounded a city in Israel.
 - The inhabitants asked the condition of surrender.
 - The reply was *“On this condition will I make a covenant with you, that I may thrust out all your right eyes, and lay it for a reproach upon all Israel.”*
- Lust and a lack of self-control is a reproach (blot, stain, disgrace, rebuke, disapproval) upon a person.

10 **The Right Hand**

- The right hand in Scripture symbolizes many things – all of which we lose when we yield to lust.
- In Galatians 2:9, it represents FELLOWSHIP. We lose deep fellowship with God and with other Christians when we give into lust.
- Our #1 reason to conquer lust is to remove hindrances to our fellowship with Jesus!

11 **Lust makes you a loser!**

- Victory (Psalm 98:1) -- *Your hand will find all your enemies; your right hand will find those who hate you.*
- Instruction (Psalm 45:4) -- *And in your majesty ride victoriously, because of truth and humility and righteousness. And let your right hand teach you awesome deeds.*
- Pleasure (Psalm 16:11) -- *You will make known to me the path of life. In your presence is fullness of joy. At your right hand are pleasures forever.*

12 **Lust makes you a loser! (2)**

- Blessing (Genesis 48:17) -- *When Joseph saw that his father put his right hand on the head of Ephraim, he was displeased. And he took hold of his father's hand to remove it from the head of Ephraim over to the head of Manasseh.*
- Cunning (Psalm 137:5) -- *If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget.*
- Long Life (Proverbs 3:16) -- *Length of days is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor.*

13 **Lust makes you a loser! (3)**

- Discernment (Psalm 21:8) -- *Your hand will find all your enemies; your right hand will find those who hate you.*
- Direction (Psalm 139:10) -- *Even there your hand would lead me, and your right hand would hold me fast.*
- Achievement (Psalm 118:15-16) -- *The sound of rejoicing and salvation is in the tents of the righteous; the right hand of Yahweh has done valiantly. The right hand of Yahweh has exalted; the right hand of Yahweh has done valiantly.*

14 **Lust makes you a loser! (4)**

- Deliverance
 - Psalm 17:7 -- *Show wondrously your acts of loyal love, O Savior of those who take refuge at your right hand from those who rise up against them.*
 - Psalm 60:5 -- *So that your beloved ones may be rescued. Save by your right hand and*

answer us.

- Protection (Psalm 20:6) -- *Now I know that Yahweh will help his anointed. He will answer him from his holy heaven with the victorious power of his right hand.*

15 **Lust makes you a loser! (5)**

- Authority (Romans 8:34) -- *Who is the one who condemns? Christ is the one who died, and more than that, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.*
- Security (Psalm 16:8) -- *I have set Yahweh before me always. Because he is at my right hand I will not be shaken.*
- Strength (Psalm 80:17) -- *Let your hand be on the man of your right hand, on the son of humankind whom you made strong for yourself.*

16 **Lust makes you a loser! (6)**

- Honor (Acts 5:31) -- *This one God has exalted to his right hand as Leader and Savior to grant repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.*
- Enablement (or Support)
 - Psalm 18:35 -- *You also gave me the shield of your salvation, and your right hand supported me, and your humility made me great.*
 - Psalm 63:8 -- *My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.*

17 **Lust makes you a loser! (7)**

- Riches (or Prosperity – Psalm 78:54) -- *So he brought them to his holy territory, this mountain his right hand acquired.*
- Understanding (or Wisdom – Ecclesiastes 10:2) -- *The heart of the wise inclines to his right, but the heart of the fool inclines to his left.*
- Power (Luke 22:69) -- *But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.*

18 **Is it worth it to yield to lust?**

- Words of a fireman to me....
- Look over the list of the things we lose when we lust. Is it worth it? Is 5 minutes of pleasure worth losing all of that?