



TABLE STUDY QUESTIONS | MATTHEW 5:27-30

- 1. Introduce yourselves. Read Matthew 5:27-30 out loud.** How is this passage similar to the one we studied last week? If you need a refresher, read Matthew 5:21-26 out loud as a group.
- 2. Some have used this week's passage to claim the Bible has a low or oppressive view of human sexuality.** Read these passages aloud and discuss how they help us understand what Jesus is saying in this week's passage, specifically about how God has designed human sexuality. It might be helpful to divide the passages up and have everyone read one verse and try to summarize it in their own words.
 - a. Genesis 2:18-25
 - b. Song of Solomon 5:10-16
 - c. Song of Solomon 7:1-8

- 3. Read Matthew 5:27-28.** How do the words of Jesus eliminate pornography and masturbation as an option for Christ followers? *Why* do you think God wants his children to exercise self-control in these areas? What are some of the damaging effects of these practices?

- 4. Read the passages below out loud as a group.** What do all the verses below have in common with one another? How do they practically relate to our passage today?
- a. Matthew 5:8
 - b. 1 Thess. 4:3-5
 - c. Romans 6:19-22 – “members” in v. 19 is referring to body parts
 - d. 2 Timothy 1:7

- 5. Read Matthew 5:29-30.** Jesus is using hyperbole to communicate that we should take drastic actions in order to follow him, the King of the kingdom. Read these passages aloud. Why do you think some were willing to take drastic actions to follow Jesus but some weren't?
- a. Luke 9:57-62
 - b. Mark 10:17-22
 - c. Philippians 1:21-26
 - d. Mark 1:16-20
 - e. What drastic actions do you need to take moving forward in light of tonight's text?**



APPLICATION | HOMEWORK | MORE STUDY

- Read the Sermon on the Mount each week this summer.
- Read the Sermon on the Mount in one sitting each week this summer.
- One of the major themes of the Sermon on the Mount is integrity – being the same person on the inside and the outside. How does today’s passage exemplify that theme?
- Consider these practical questions to help you think about sexual integrity in a number of areas (conversations, desires, thoughts, actions, dress, dating, social media, etc)
 - Are my actions loving to others?
 - Is this something I'd be proud of?
 - Is this my highest standard?
 - Is this in line with my convictions?
 - Am I dressing for attention?
 - What is my motive for wanting this?
 - Would this be better left unsaid?
 - Will this benefit others?
- Using only the Old Testament, how would you explain and defend God’s sexual ethic for his people? How would you answer someone who claimed the Bible has a restrictive, oppressive view of human sexuality?
- Pray for God to work on developing a heart of obedience in you this week.

REMINDERS

- Start with the text
- Expand to the context
- SOAP first: <https://www.austinridge.org/am-site/media/how-to-study-the-bible.pdf>
- Dictionaries, commentaries, articles, podcasts, etc., second

RESOURCES

- Bible: ESV Study Bible. A solid translation and a great study Bible.
- Read from multiple translations
- How to Read the Bible For All its Worth by Fee and Stuart
- The Bible Knowledge Commentary (both and Old and New Testament editions) by Walvoord and Zuck
- Sonic Light - Concise commentaries for each book of the Bible:
<http://planobiblechapel.org/constable-notes/>
- Blue Letter Bible - search a word or a passage, turn on “Strong’s” in the tool bar.