

**2023 Aim Check-in**

- Becoming disciples who make disciples, who make disciples.
  - Creating a community of faith that meaningfully engages our community of residence.
1. In the time since you last met as a H2H group, have you made any movement towards the aims we've set for 2023?
  2. How might we as a H2H group help support or encourage you towards these aims?

**Discussion Questions Set #1**

"It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit." (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8)

"I will give you a new heart and a new mind." (Ezekiel 36:26)

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2)

"Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded." (James 4:8)

In sermon, we discussed the fact that our culture oversexualizes nearly everything and seems to celebrate lust and its enticement.

1. In what ways have you witnessed a cultural preoccupation with sexuality and lust?
2. Discuss the impact of this preoccupation on our understanding of sexuality and lust. Does overexposure to this deaden (or lessen) our sensitivity to the dangers of lust?
3. Why is God's will that we be sanctified? Why is our response to lustful impulses such a significant concern in Scripture?
4. Discuss the significance of Ezekiel 36:26, Romans 12:2 and James 4:8 when it comes to the issue of lust and adultery.

**Discussion Questions Set #2**

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell." (Matthew 5:27-30)

"Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up." (James 4:10)

1. How might lust be the root of adultery?
2. Why do you think the religious leaders of Israel might have been harsh on those caught in the physical act of adultery, but allowed the lustful attitudes that lay under such acts to be largely ignored? What does focussing on the act rather than the attitudes result in?
3. Discuss the assertion that lust is what forms when sexual desire is not governed by the great commandment to love God wholeheartedly and to love one's neighbour as oneself.
4. Discuss the idea that to objectify others – to dehumanize them to some degree – also amounts to a denial of the image of God in others and the idea that lustfully objectifying others means that at the very heart of lust is a desire to rebel against God or at the very least, a desire to diminish His reflection in people.
5. Why do you think humility might be a route to overcoming the slavery to lust so rampant in our culture? Discuss this divine "escape plan".