

A scenic landscape featuring a dirt road that curves through a field of dry, golden-brown grass. In the background, a large, calm lake stretches across the middle ground, with distant mountains visible on the horizon. The sky is filled with soft, textured clouds in shades of blue and grey. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

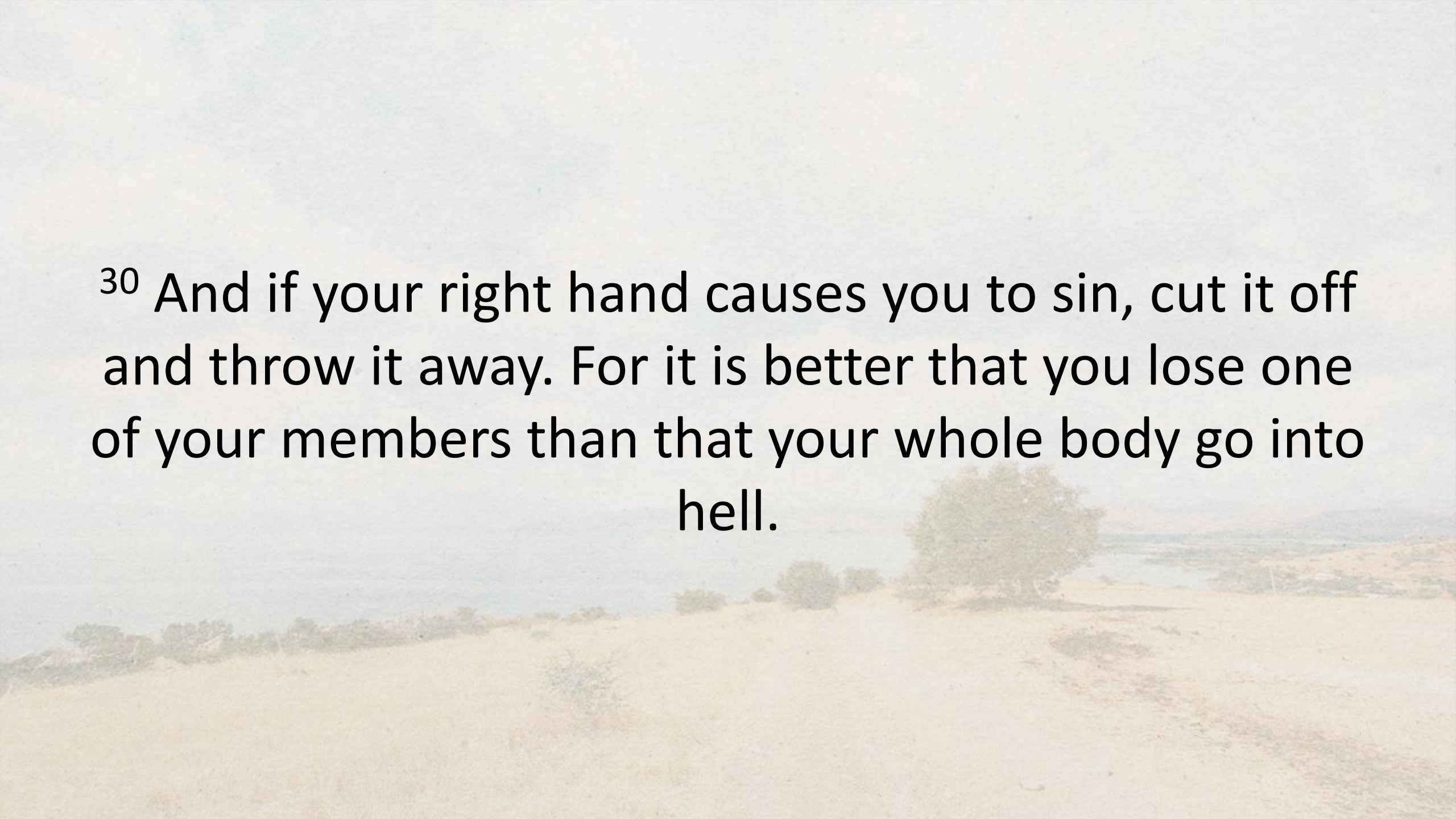
Sermon on the Mount

Apprenticing The Way Of Jesus

Matthew 5:27-30

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.

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. ²⁹ 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.

A faded background image of a landscape. In the foreground, there is a field of dry, yellowish-brown grass. In the middle ground, there are several trees, including a prominent, larger tree on the right side. In the background, there is a body of water, possibly a lake or a wide river, and a hazy horizon line under a light sky.

³⁰ 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.

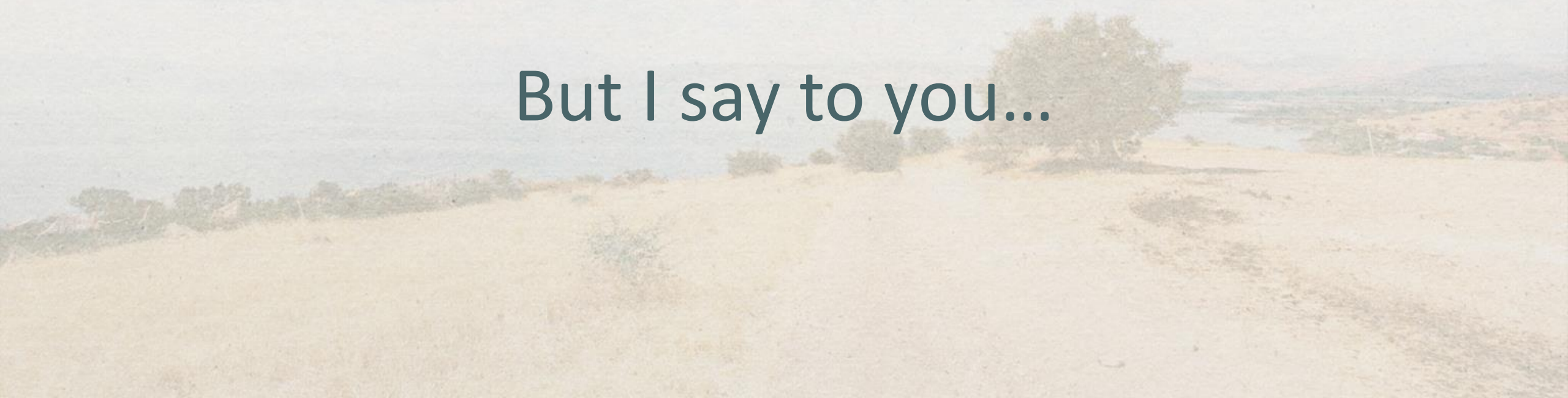
Key Idea:

Adultery and Lust are equally toxic to our relationship with God because they both violate His heartbeat for redemptive sexuality.

Jesus “**fulfills**” the Law by bringing it back to God’s heart for reconciled relationship.

You’ve Heard it said...

But I say to you...



1) God's heart for redemptive sexuality

“You have heard it says that you shall not commit adultery.”

Matthew 5:27

God's plan for redemptive sexuality

God's plan for redemptive sexuality is that it is to be enjoyed in a covenantal relationship between a man and a woman for a lifetime.

(Genesis 1:26-28, Prov 5:18-19)

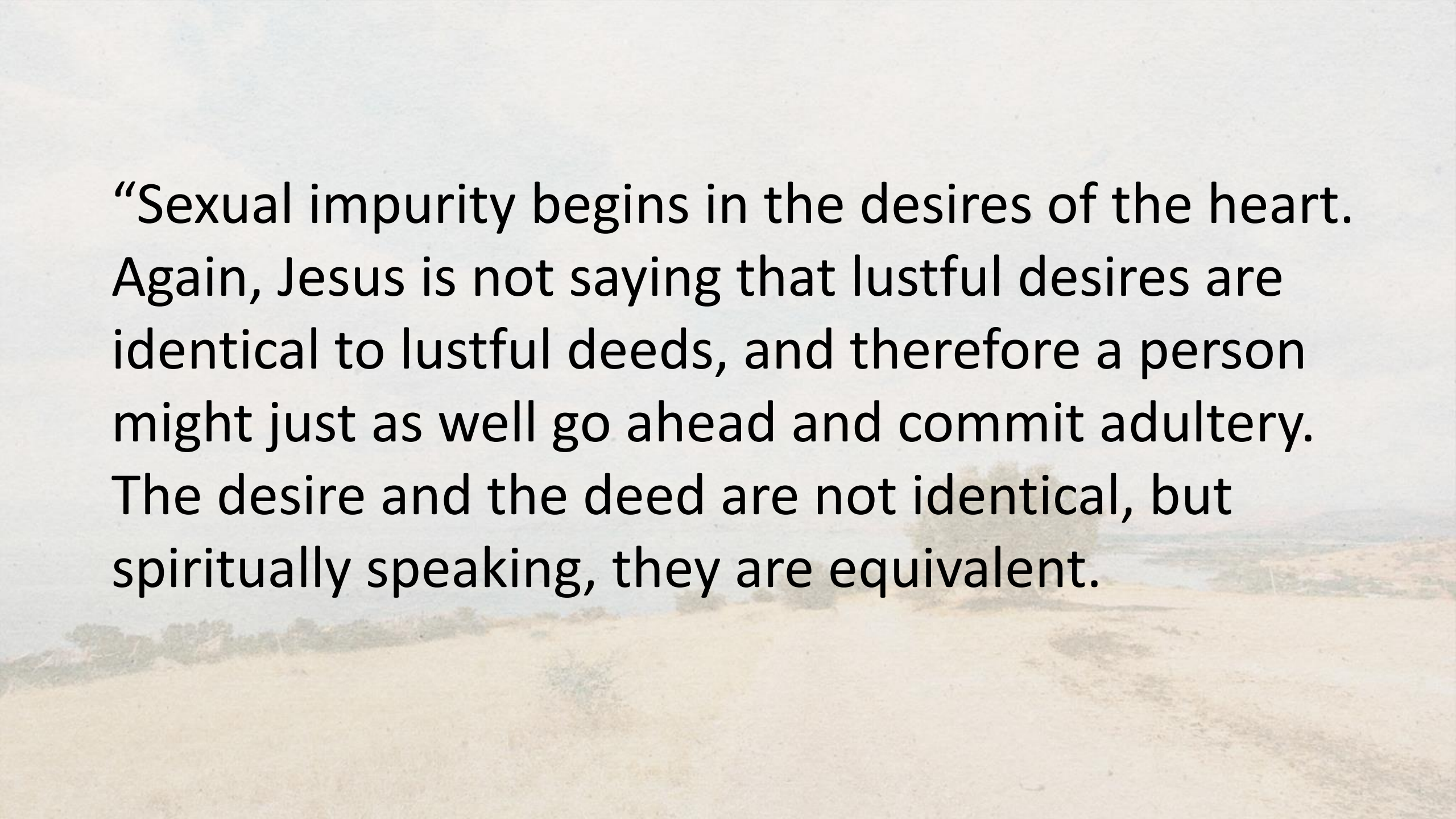
God's plan for redemptive sexuality isn't about our past but our present approach to valuing others as those created in the image of God.



2) The corruption of redemptive sexuality

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 5:28



“Sexual impurity begins in the desires of the heart. Again, Jesus is not saying that lustful desires are identical to lustful deeds, and therefore a person might just as well go ahead and commit adultery. The desire and the deed are not identical, but spiritually speaking, they are equivalent.

The “look” that Jesus mentioned was not a casual glance, but a constant stare with the purpose of lusting. ...the man Jesus described looked at the woman for the purpose of feeding his inner sensual appetites as a substitute for the act. This is no accident.”

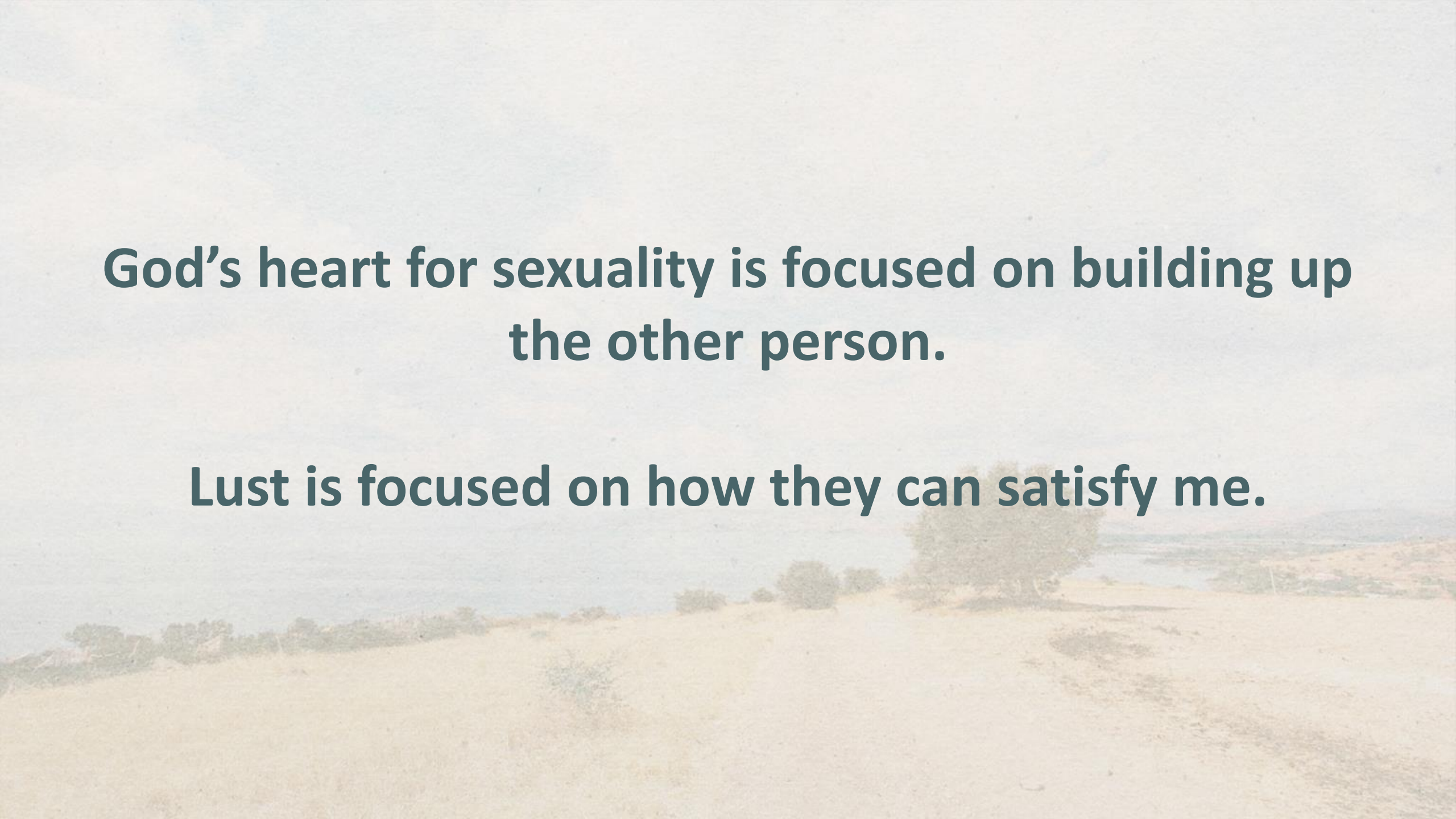
-Dallas Willard

Recognizing Lust

“epithumeo”

To desire strongly, to lust, to covet

“a self-centered craving, then objectification of another person or thing, with the purpose of using them to satisfy one’s own desires, despite the impact on others”

A landscape background featuring a body of water in the distance, a large tree on the right side, and a field of dry grass in the foreground. The text is overlaid on this background.

**God's heart for sexuality is focused on building up
the other person.**

Lust is focused on how they can satisfy me.

A close-up photograph of a man and a woman sitting together. The woman, on the left, is wearing a grey sweater and blue jeans, with her hand resting on her knee. The man, on the right, is wearing a light blue button-down shirt and tan pants, with his hands clasped together. In the foreground, a dark wooden table holds several sheets of paper, likely a document or report. The lighting is soft and focused on the couple's hands and the text overlay.

**How do we champion God's heart for
redemptive sexuality?**

A scenic landscape with a large tree in the foreground and a body of water in the distance. The scene is hazy and atmospheric, with a mix of green and brown tones. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

For what have I to do with judging outsiders?

Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge?

1 Corinthians 5:12

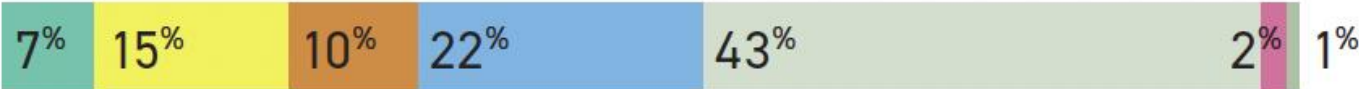
WHERE PORN USE & CHRISTIANITY INTERSECT

How often are you viewing porn?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Once or twice a month
- Less often
- Never
- Don't know
- Prefer not to answer

54%

Practicing Christians

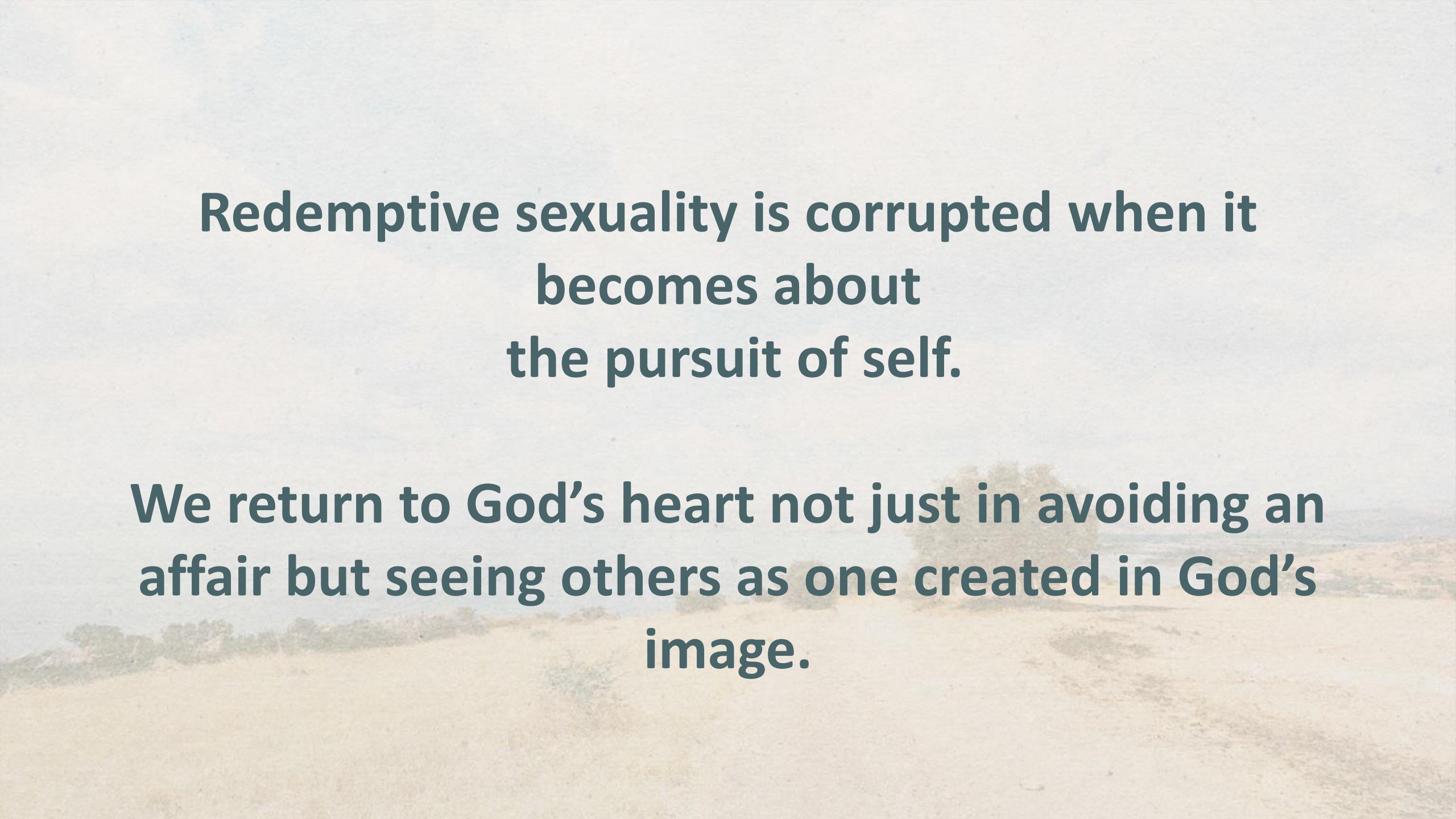


Nonpracticing Christians



Non-Christians





**Redemptive sexuality is corrupted when it
becomes about
the pursuit of self.**

**We return to God's heart not just in avoiding an
affair but seeing others as one created in God's
image.**

3) The call to redemptive sexuality (29-30)

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.

Matthew 5:29




What is Jesus saying here?

Three observations

- 1) Jesus is exposing the self-righteousness of the Pharisees.
- 2) Removal of limbs and eyes does not transform the heart.
- 3) Jesus calls us to take sin seriously!

Jesus is calling us to allow Him to transform our hearts and then take intentional steps to decisively deal with our sin

A landscape photograph showing a body of water in the distance, a large tree on the right, and a field of dry grass in the foreground. The text is overlaid in the center.

How do we find freedom from lust?

1) Freedom begins in a relationship with Jesus

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. Rom. 6:12-14

How do we find freedom from lust?

- 1) Freedom begins in a relationship with Jesus
- 2) Deal with sin decisively through
“repentance” and “community”

**Where is God inviting each of us back to His heart
for redemptive sexuality?**



Reflection Questions

Read Matthew 5:27-30 this week several times...

What do you hear Jesus saying to you as you read?

Why do you think Jesus speaks so decisively about Lust? Why does redemptive sexuality matter to Him?

Why do you think its so difficult to talk about redemptive sexuality in churches? What are some ways in our groups that we can begin to break down that stigma?

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