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**A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups, and Families  
for the week of January 2, 2022**

**Lust**

This week, Pastor Steve Shelby preached from [Matthew 5:27-30](#)

<sup>27</sup>“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ <sup>28</sup>But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup>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. <sup>30</sup>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.

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- Here, Jesus quotes the Law of Moses from [Exodus 20:14](#). What is He teaching us about **the true meaning of “You shall not commit adultery”**?
  - Let’s talk about **the spiritual dynamics of “looking with lustful intent”** (28). If you could put words to it, **what is the human heart saying with this kind of look**?
  - Jesus taught elsewhere that **every sin is ultimately a failure to love God or our neighbor** ([Mark 12:30-31](#)). How is looking with lustful intent **a failure to love your neighbor**? How is it a **transgression against God**?
  - Throughout history, some Christians have read vv.29-30 and mutilated their bodies. However, Jesus is teaching about a **problem of the human heart** that can not be corrected by surgery. **What is His point**?
  - Throughout the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus has been **challenging any superficial view of righteousness**. What needs to happen **to change the human heart**?
  - This teaching calls us to **take sin and temptation seriously**, and that discipline, suffering, sacrifice, and death are part of life in the Kingdom of God. **In what situations might we need to “gouge out an eye” or “cut off a hand”**?
  - This teaching also prompts us to **take grace seriously** and cry out the Lord for mercy, faith, and heart change. **Pray together** in light of this week’s passage: For the purity of God’s church, the sanctification and protection of His people, and hearts that gladly turn from lust to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.