



[Matthew 5:27-32](#)

(27) "You have heard that it was said to those of old, '*You shall not commit adultery.*' (28) But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. (29) If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. (30) And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. (31) "Furthermore it has been said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' (32) But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.

New King James Version

Christ's instruction in His [Sermon on the Mount](#) is exactly what He gave to His servant [Moses](#) for Israel. Both teach us that marriage is permanent, its ties so binding that they can be broken only by death—or something worse: physical infidelity, moral abandonment, or sustained abuse by either spouse, all of which [Jesus](#) encapsulates in the term *porneia*, translated as "sexual immorality."

The Pharisees tested our Lord on this point, but His response leaves no doubt on how binding the institution of marriage should be, a standard set from creation:

And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what [God](#) has joined together, let not man separate." ([Matthew 19:4-6](#))

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for Matthew 5:27-32 (<http://www.theberean.org>)
Because marriage is a creation of God, it possesses a sacredness that no man-devised institution can ever have. [This world](#) is trying to exchange the sanctity of marriage for its complete opposite, the profane, but this secular approach will never produce a healthy society.

— James Beaubelle

To learn more, see:
[The Sacredness of Marriage](#)

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