

CONNECT AND GROW

The Jesus Way: Relationships Rule

Matthew 5:27-37

October 11, 2026

Icebreaker: Talk about your most significant relationship and why?

Opening Discussion: Looking back on your Message Notes, what stands out to you the most?

Study Summary:

1. **Jesus is describing a heart that sees the priority of relationships**
2. **Understand the ideal and the real: Jesus calls us to pursue God's ideal while recognizing the brokenness of our real lives.**
3. **There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ**

Digging Deeper:

Read Matthew 5:27-37

In this section, Jesus continues describing what life looks like in God's Kingdom. He moves beyond outward behavior and addresses the condition of the heart. Jesus isn't simply giving us more rules to follow; He is showing us that healthy relationships flow from a heart that is being transformed by God.

1. Jesus addresses the heart behind both murder and adultery. What do these teachings have in common? Why does Jesus care not only about our actions but also about the desires and attitudes of our hearts? Why is pursuing purity important for healthy relationships?
2. What influences, habits, or environments can make it easier to entertain lustful thoughts? What influences help us pursue purity instead?
3. PK talked about the difference between consumption and covenant in marriage. What is the difference between viewing a relationship as something that serves me and viewing

it as a covenant in which I faithfully serve and love another person? Why is covenant stronger than a consumer mindset?

4. Why do you think Jesus uses such strong language about removing sources of temptation? What is He teaching us about how seriously we should take sin?
5. What role can prayer, Scripture, accountability, and healthy boundaries play in helping us resist temptation and pursue purity? Which of these might you need to strengthen in your own life?

Faithfulness in Marriage (V 31-32)

The Pharisees, the religious leaders in Jesus' day, debated the circumstances under which divorce could be permitted. Jesus acknowledged the reality of divorce but directed His listeners back to God's design for marriage—a faithful, covenant relationship. His goal was not to reduce every complicated marriage situation to one simple rule, but to show the beauty, seriousness, and blessings of God's design for marriage.

6. In what ways does our culture encourage us to treat relationships as disposable or conditional?
7. Read Romans 8:1 and Matthew 5:17. Why are these two verses important to remember as we read Jesus' challenging words in the Sermon on the Mount? How do they help us pursue God's standard without falling into either self-righteousness or despair?

8. Are there any commitments in my life that I have begun treating casually that God may be calling me to take more seriously?

Read **Matthew 5:33-37**.

9. What does Jesus mean when He says, “Let your ‘yes’ be yes and your ‘no’ be no”? What does this teach us about honesty and integrity?
10. What would it look like for people to know that they can consistently trust your word?

Challenge for the week:

Ask yourself: **Where is Jesus inviting me to let Him change my heart—not just my behavior?**

Each morning, pray: **“Jesus, change not only what I do, but who I am becoming.”**

Throughout the week, pay attention to your thoughts, desires, relationships, commitments, and words. Ask Jesus to shape each of these areas to reflect His heart.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for being our righteousness. Thank You that You show us God's ideal while also meeting us in the reality of our brokenness. Thank You that there is no condemnation for those who are in You. Transform our hearts so that our thoughts, desires, relationships, commitments, and words increasingly reflect Your heart. Help us pursue purity, honor our relationships, keep our commitments, and speak truthfully. Amen.

