

Matthew 5:27-28

²⁷ "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY';
²⁸ but I say to you, that everyone who looks on a woman to lust for her has committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Today in our culture, we are constantly being inundated with improper pictures of men and women on TV, movies, billboards, magazines and the internet. It has become so offensive today, that no matter where you look, pornography is being thrown in your face. It has become almost impossible to watch a movie without some form of compromise to your morals, by being exposed to nudity or watching someone act out some form of sexual encounter. One of the biggest problems is that many Christians are being desensitized to this form of trash. Many people have come to believe that there is no problem watching a couple being explicitly intimate; yet how many of you would feel just as comfortable having someone else watch you and your spouse in the privacy of your bedroom? Whenever a person is looking through a window and watching someone undress or being intimate, they are called a "peeping tom". Yet many Christians practice the same principle by what they watch on the TV, movies or the internet. Of course we would never label ourselves with such a derogatory name; but isn't that exactly what we are practicing by allowing such filth into our homes and our lives? We are being sold a bill of lies by those profiting through the media, advertisements and Hollywood. Our children cannot even watch television today without being exposed to every form of vile and decadent behavior. Yet this is so common today, that we just shrug our shoulders, if we do anything at all. Soon we will be exposed to more graphic images than we ever dreamed or thought possible during public daytime broadcasting. With movies like *Brokeback Mountain*, it will only be a matter of a very short time before blatant homosexual perversion is on our TV screen.

Because the church has refused to take a stand, perversion has become the order of the day in our nation; because we didn't want to be labeled as intolerant. It has become almost impossible to look beyond the tip of our noses without having some form of gross sexual image staring us right in the eye. For many people listening, they might see what I am sharing as extreme, or lacking an appreciation for the arts. To be honest, if you see it that way, then you are deceived!! God never intended for any of us to view each other in compromising positions, dress, or lack thereof. We have learned to tolerate trash in order to be entertained! It is becoming impossible to watch your favorite sporting event without having some form of mechanical malfunction take place with someone's clothing.

Church, please don't be deceived into believing that this is appropriate, and that somehow God will overlook what you and I are choosing to entertain us. The truth is that we need to stop allowing others to compromise what we watch; if Hollywood won't make movies and sitcoms without some form of pornography, then stop watching them. If advertisers won't stop surrounding their products with filth, then stop buying them. In Closing, please let me leave you with **I John 2:16-17**, ¹⁶ **For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.** ¹⁷ **And the world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever.**