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Central Congregational Church
“For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors”
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The Stain of Lust

Ephesians 2:1-5

Series: Stained – The Truth About Sin, Salvation and Sanctification

Lust is...

- ❖ Dictionary Definition: *Intense bodily desire – especially sexual desire.*
- ❖ Biblical Sense: *Self-centered, uncontrolled desire tied to our fallen, sinful humanity.*

Central Passage

Ephesians 2:1–5 (NIV) — *1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. 4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. (See also, Romans 7:7-8:17; James 1:13-15)*

Central Thought: Our God-given, bodily desires are normal and good, but have been corrupted by our sinful nature, and are in need of the transforming work of Jesus.

Responses to Human Desire

- ❖ Hedonism/Humanism – Embrace it.

Ephesians 4:17–19 (NLT) — *17 With the Lord’s authority I say this: Live no longer as the Gentiles do, for they are hopelessly confused. 18 Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him. 19 They have no sense of shame. They live for lustful pleasure and eagerly practice every kind of impurity.*

*Access today’s sermon notes via your smartphone or tablet with the **YouVersion** Bible app from LifeChurch.tv. CCChurch Guest Wi-Fi password: central8360church.

- ❖ Buddhism – Avoid it.

“When wishes are few, the heart is happy. When craving ends, there is peace.”

- ❖ Religion – Legislate it.

Colossians 2:20–23 (NLT) — *20 You have died with Christ, and he has set you free from the spiritual powers of this world. So why do you keep on following the rules of the world, such as, 21 “Don’t handle! Don’t taste! Don’t touch!”? 22 Such rules are mere human teachings about things that deteriorate as we use them. 23 These rules may seem wise because they require strong devotion, pious self-denial, and severe bodily discipline. But they provide no help in conquering a person’s evil desires.*

- ❖ Jesus – Be Transformed.

Romans 12:1–2 (NIV) — *1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

Colossians 3:1–5 (NIV) — *1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. 5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.*

Homework/Questions

- ❖ Read the “See Also” passages above.
- ❖ Where do you personally struggle with corrupted desire?
- ❖ Make a plan to bring your desire under the control of Christ.
 - Prayer and confession.
 - Bible Reading – Start with the Gospel of Mark
 - Accountability – Find a trustworthy brother or sister in Christ in whom you can confide.

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