



Apologetics for Parents, Session #3

Topics Covered:

- A) Bible Hermeneutics (interpretation) 101
- B) Jesus' Teaching on Biblical Morality
- C) [Optional]: Critiquing a Hermeneutical Example

Session Video: Hermeneutics 101 (6-min): <https://youtu.be/6AMCfjH1qQA>

A) Bible Hermeneutics (interpretation) 101

Hermeneutics: The theory and methodology of interpretation of written texts, especially the interpretation of biblical texts, wisdom literature, and philosophical texts.

Why is Biblical Hermeneutics Important:

- 1) God's word is Truth (John 17:17)
- 2) Only the Truth can set us free (John 8:32)
- 3) Good hermeneutics help us to rightly-divide [understand] the Word of Truth and bring us into freedom (2 Timothy 2:15).
- 4) If we walk in darkness, we can fall into a pit. ("... the one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going." John 12:35)
- 5) But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:7)

Excerpts from “Well-Versed,” Ps. Garlow, Chapter 2 (Hermeneutics)

For Further Reading: [Well Versed: Biblical Answers to Today's Tough Issues](#) (James Garlow, 2016)

“When you interpret what the Bible says, some people may say, “But that’s just your interpretation of the Bible!” Not so. What is important is to:

- a) Let the Bible speak for itself, (within the local context & the whole Bible)
- b) See how early followers of Christ understood it, and
- c) Follow how it has been understood through the centuries.

There are 12 hermeneutical principles by which we make sense of writings and historical records:

(1) **Whole Bible:** Allow the whole Bible to interpret itself. When a passage is not clear, allow the clear passages to be the interpreter.

(2) **Literature:** Know the type of literature you are reading, why the author wrote it, who it is written by and to whom, and the historical background.

[Understand the type of literature it is: prose, poetry, allegory, hyperbole?]

(3) **Context:** Understand context, the meaning in light of the verses that went before and after (and within the Bible as a whole).

(4) **Adherence:** Avoid bending the text to say what you want it to say, reading something into the text that is not there.

h) Eisegesis (pronounced “EYE-So-Gee-Sus”) means putting one’s view into a biblical text.

i) Exegesis (pronounced “EX-A-GEE-Sus”) means finding meaning directly from the text. Beware of taking historical accounts and making them figurative.

(5) **Word study:** What do the words mean? Understand idioms. For example, “when the sun went down” or “the four corners of the earth” are idioms. We don’t actually believe the sun drops or the earth has corners.

(6) **Literal:** Take things literally, unless the context requires you to interpret it figuratively.

- a. **Literal example**, Genesis 1:3 “And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day”; the evening and morning indicates a literal Day.
- b. **Figurative example**, Luke 13:34, “like a mother hen gathers its chicks,” does not mean that Jesus has feathers, but is “caring.”

(7) **The Old Testament/New Testament connection:** Understand that the Old Testament is moving toward the New Testament, and that the New Testament is founded upon, and makes no sense without, the Old Testament.

(8) **Principles:** Carefully look for timeless principles. Distinguish between temporary commands (to the ancient Hebrew people) and permanent commands, which apply to us today. The Bible indicates that the prohibition against homosexual practice continues from the Old Testament (OT) into the New Testament (NT). Yet some of the items listed in the OT (mixing types of garments or mixing different kinds of seeds) applied specifically to a nomadic ancient people traveling among pagans. *[if it remains operative and authoritative in the NT, then it is still active.]*

(9) **Divine Revelation:** What might God be revealing about Himself to humanity? *[Remember fresh inspiration from God's Spirit regarding His Word, would never contradict what God has clearly established throughout His Word]*

(10) **Pray and ask the Holy Spirit (the Spirit of Truth) for help in understanding:** If you are a follower of Jesus, it makes sense to pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you. Allow me to suggest a prayer based on Ephesians 1:17–18: “(I ask you). . . God . . . may You may give (me) the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that (I) may know You better. I pray also that the eyes of (my) heart may be enlightened in order that (I) may know the hope to which You have called (me). . . .”

(11) [BONUS #1] No one is allowed to legitimately read in-between the lines of the Bible, if they willfully ignore, reject, or violate the lines of the Bible that they are supposed to be reading; neither can their interpretation violate the local or global context of the Bible.

(12) [BONUS #2] Recognize that the New Testament fulfills the Old Testament's (OT) types and shadows: In Christ, many OT shadows and types (Heb. 10:1) were fulfilled, realized, or re-affirmed in Christ and the NT (Matt

5:17,18). All the laws and symbolisms of the OT were purposeful, but in the New Testament many laws are now completed and fulfilled in Christ, while other moral standards continue eternally, as we see in the NT (1 Cor. 6:9-13) and in the Book of Revelation (Rev. 22:14-15).

Summary of some OT Types and Shadows in the NT:

Heb 10:1 “For the Law, since it has *only* a shadow of the good things to come and not the form of those things itself, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually every year, make those who approach perfect.”

Heb 8:4 “Now if He [Jesus] were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are already priests who offer gifts according to the law. **5** The place where they serve is a **copy and shadow** of what is in heaven.”

Col 2:16 “Therefore let no one judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a feast, a New Moon, or a Sabbath. **17** These are a **shadow** of the things to come, but the body that casts it belongs to Christ.”

Heb 7:27 Unlike the other high priests, He [Jesus] does not need to offer daily sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the sins of the people; He

sacrificed for sin once for all when He offered up Himself. 28 For **the law** appoints as high priests men who are weak; but **the oath**, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made **perfect forever**.

Heb 9:23 So it was necessary for the **copies** of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the **heavenly things themselves** with better sacrifices than these. 24 For Christ did not enter **a man-made copy** of the true sanctuary, but He entered **heaven itself**, now to appear on our behalf in the presence of God.

Rom 8:3-5 “For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, so that the requirement of the Law might be **fulfilled** in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 The place where they [the priests] serve is **a copy and shadow** of what is in heaven...”

Matt 5:17 “Do not presume that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to **fulfill**.”

#2) Jesus' Teaching for Biblical Morality: (taking purity to a new level)

Note: As Christians, we are the temple of the Holy Spirit, so Jesus calls us to take our sexual purity seriously:

- A) **Matthew 5:17** “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.” *[Law = God's moral and sexual commandments in the OT]*
- B) **Matthew 5:18** “For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.”
- C) **Matt 23:1-3** “Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to His disciples: “The scribes and Pharisees sit in Moses' seat *[i.e., the Law of Moses]*. So practice and observe everything they tell you...”
- D) **Luke 5:32** “I (Jesus) have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”

- E) **John 8:11** “And Jesus said [to the adulteress], ... go, and from now on **sin no more.**”
- F) **Mark 7:20-23** “He [Jesus] went on: “What comes out of a person is what defiles them. For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come— sexual **immorality** [*plural form, addresses all sexual immoralities under the Mosaic law, see below**], theft, murder, **adultery**, greed, malice, deceit, **lewdness**, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and defile a person.”
- G) **Matt 5:28** “But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
- H) **Matthew 19:4-6** [4] “[Jesus said] Haven't you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them **male and female,**’ [5] and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? [6] So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore **what God has joined together, let no one separate.**”

I) Matt 18:6

6 “But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.”

J) Revelation 2:14-23

14 But I [Jesus] have a few things against you, because some of you hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to place a stumbling block before the Israelites so they would eat food sacrificed to idols and **commit sexual immorality**

20 But I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching **she misleads My servants to be sexually immoral** and to eat food sacrificed to idols....

21 Even though **I have given her time to repent of her immorality, she is unwilling....**

22 Behold, I will cast her onto a bed of sickness, **and those who commit adultery with her will suffer great tribulation unless they repent of her deeds....**

23 Then I will strike her children dead, and all the churches will know that I am the One who searches minds and hearts, and I will repay each of you according to your deed.”

The Good News for any in Christ:

1 Corinthians 5:21

“God made him [Jesus] who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him [Jesus] we might become the righteousness of God.”

1 John 1:7-9

7 “But if we walk in the light, as he [God] is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, he [Jesus] is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

Ephesians 1:13 “And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him [Jesus] with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit”

MOSIAC LAW: Leviticus Chapter 20 & Deut. 22 (Excerpts): (the Bible's Sexual Moral Code under the Law of Moses)

Leviticus Chapter 20

¹The LORD said to Moses,

² “Say to the Israelites: ‘**Any Israelite or any foreigner residing in Israel who sacrifices any of his children to Molek is to be put to death.** The members of the community are to stone him.

⁷ “**Consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am the LORD your God.**

¹⁰ “**If a man commits adultery with another man’s wife—with the wife of his neighbor—both the adulterer and the adulteress are to be put to death.**

¹¹ “**If a man has sexual relations with his father’s wife, he has dishonored his father. Both the man and the woman are to be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.**

12 “If a man has sexual relations with his daughter-in-law, both of them are to be put to death. What they have done is a perversion; their blood will be on their own heads.

13 “If a man has sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They are to be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.

14 “If a man marries both a woman and her mother, it is wicked. Both he and they must be burned in the fire, so that no wickedness will be among you.

15 “If a man has sexual relations with an animal, he is to be put to death, and you must kill the animal.

16 “If a woman approaches an animal to have sexual relations with it, kill both the woman and the animal. They are to be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.

23 You must not live according to the customs of the nations I am going to drive out before you. Because they did all these things, I abhorred them.

26 You are to be holy to me because I, the LORD, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own.

Deut. 22

5 A woman must not wear men's clothing, and a man must not wear women's clothing, for whoever does these things is detestable to the LORD your God. ...

25 ... if [a] man encounters a betrothed woman in the open country, and he overpowers her and lies with her, only the man who has done this must die....

30 A man is not to marry his father's wife, so that he will not dishonor his father's marriage bed. *[ref. 1 Cor. 5:1]*

3) [OPTIONAL] Opportunity to Critique OTB's Hermeneutics:

“Outing the Bible (OTB): Queer Folks, God, Jesus, and the Christian Scriptures” by Rev. Dr. Nancy Wilson ([an openly gay clergy member](#))

Rev. Dr. Nancy Wilson Hermeneutical Comments from OTB:

1) GOOD Principle, EXEGESIS: (pg. 53):

“Bible is the best interpreter of the Bible”

2) BAD Principle, SELECTIVE (pg. 49):

“Are all parts of the Bible equally valuable and valid? How do we discover and discern the “canon within the canon”? And what is our stand regarding the obvious misogynist [*hatred of women*] stories in the Bible?”

[Note: Please remember that the serpent also tempted Eve when he twisted God's command to her and challenged her to distrust what God said, “did God really say? Gen. 3:1]

3) BAD Principle, READING-INTO, EISEGESIS (pg. 47): “Know that the scriptures were meant for you to read, **interpret**, and **apply** to your **queer** lives.”

Text and OTB’s commentary to critique (Sodom and Gomorrah), pgs 52-56:

First Read Genesis Chapters 18:20-19:12,

²⁰ Then the LORD said, “The **outcry against** Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their **sin so grievous**

²¹ that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know.”

²² The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the LORD.

²³ Then Abraham approached him and said: “Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked?”

Gen. 19 The two angels arrived at Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city. When he saw them, he got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground.

² “My lords,” he said, “please turn aside to your servant’s house. You can wash your feet and spend the night and then go on your way early in the morning.”

“No,” they answered, “we will spend the night in the square.”

³ But he insisted so strongly that they did go with him and entered his house. He prepared a meal for them, baking bread without yeast, and they ate.

⁴ Before they had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom—both young and old—surrounded the house.

⁵ They called to Lot, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have **sex** with them.” (*Hebrew “yada,” “to know” in this context “sexual knowledge,” see Gen 4;1,17 and Gen. 19:5,8, and Judges 19:22-23*)

⁶ Lot went outside to meet them and shut the door behind him ⁷ and said, “No, my friends. **Don’t do this wicked thing.** ⁸ Look, I have **two daughters who have never slept** [*“yada”, sexual knowledge*] **with a man.** Let me bring them out to you, and **you can do what you like with them.** But don’t do anything to these men, for they have come under the protection of my roof.”

⁹ “Get out of our way,” they replied. “This fellow came here as a foreigner, and now he wants to play the judge! We’ll treat you worse than

them.” They kept bringing pressure on Lot and moved forward to break down the door.

¹⁰ But the men inside reached out and pulled Lot back into the house and shut the door. ¹¹ Then they struck the men who were at the door of the house, young and old, with blindness so that they could not find the door. ¹² The two men said to Lot, “Do you have anyone else here—sons-in-law, sons or daughters, or anyone else in the city who belongs to you? Get them out of here, ¹³ because we are going to destroy this place. The outcry to the LORD against its people is so great that he has sent us to destroy it.”

OTB - Rev. Dr. Nancy Wilson’s Commentary:

- 1) (pg. 53, Gen 19:5); That they may “Know” them, this may be a euphemistic reference to ... threat of rape. *[In context, the men of Sodom planned to sexually gang rape the two male strangers].*
- 2) (pg. 53) “It was a way that heterosexual men humiliated other men” *[There is no biblical context, precedent provided or existing, to support this claim; additionally we see that the “wickedness” stated in Gen. 19:6 again being attempted in Judges 19:22-23]*

- 3)(pg. 53) “Lot knew this was about sexual violence” *[it was clearly about sex, and therefore sex by men with men”]*
- 4)(pg. 53) “male rape (not a sexual act as we now know, but an act of violence)” *[Here a Begging of the Question occurs, calling male-rape “as not a sexual act” has not only never been established with any evidence (and so far only exists in the mind of the author), but it is self-evident that “rape” is always sexual]*
- 5)(pg. 53) “in none of these references to Sodom and Gomorrah is there any remote reference to sexuality of homosexuality” *[Here again, a Begging of the Question occurs, re-stating an opinion over and over again, and saying it is true does not make it true. We will conclude by reviewing the cross-referenced scriptures that OTB has lists, and we will also include related cross-referenced scriptures that OTB failed to include.]*

OTB Listed Cross-Referenced Scriptures:

- 1) Deut 29:23 “The whole land *is* brimstone, salt, and burning; it is not sown, nor does it bear, nor does any grass grow there, **like the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah**, Admah, and Zeboiim, which the LORD overthrew in His anger and His wrath.” *[Only evidences the destruction of Sodom]*
- 2) Isa 1:9 “Unless the LORD of hosts Had left to us a very small remnant, **We would have become like Sodom**, We would have been made like Gomorrah. *[Only evidences the destruction of Sodom]*
- 3) Jer 49:18 “**As in the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah** And their neighbors,” says the LORD, “No one shall remain there, Nor shall a son of man dwell in it...” *[Only evidences the destruction of Sodom]*
- 4) Amos 4:11 ““I overthrew *some* of you, **As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah**, And you were like a firebrand plucked from the burning; Yet you have not returned to Me,” Says the LORD. *[Only evidences the destruction of Sodom]*

Ezekiel 16:46-58:

46“Now your older sister *[personification]* is Samaria, who lives north of you with her daughters; and your younger sister *[personification]*, who lives south of you, is Sodom with her daughters.

47“Yet you *[Jerusalem]* have not merely walked in their ways or done according to their **abominations**; but, as if that were too little, **you acted more corruptly** in all your conduct than they.

48“As I live,” declares the Lord GOD, “Sodom, your sister and her daughters have not done as you and your daughters have done.

49“Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had arrogance, abundant food and careless ease, but she did not help the poor and needy. *[Yes, one of the guilts of Sodom was their **pride and selfishness**, which is a fertile catalyst for all kinds of sexual immorality, as we see in Gen. 19:5, which shows the desire for male-on-male sexual immorality]*

50“Thus they were haughty and committed **abominations** *[Gen. 19:5]* before Me. Therefore I removed them when I saw *it*.

51“Furthermore, Samaria did not commit half of your sins, for you have multiplied your abominations more than they. Thus you have made your sisters appear righteous by all your abominations which you have committed.

52“Also bear your disgrace in that you have made judgment favorable for your sisters. Because of your sins in which you acted more abominably than they, they are more in the right than you. Yes, be also ashamed and bear your disgrace, in that you made your sisters appear righteous.

53“Nevertheless, I will restore their captivity, the captivity of Sodom and her daughters, the captivity of Samaria and her daughters, and along with them your own captivity,

54 in order that you may bear your humiliation and feel ashamed for all that you have done when you become a consolation to them.

55 “Your sisters, Sodom with her daughters and Samaria with her daughters, will return to their former state, and you with your daughters will *also* return to your former state.

56 “As *the name of* your sister Sodom was not heard from your lips in your day of pride

57 before your wickedness was uncovered, so now you have become the reproach of the daughters of Edom and of all who are around her, of the daughters of the Philistines—those surrounding *you* who despise you.

58 “You have borne *the penalty of your lewdness* [*“zimmah,” wickedness, Leviticus 20:14 & Judges 20:6, sexual immorality*] and abominations,” the LORD declares.

59 For thus says the Lord GOD, “I will also do with you as you have done, you who have despised the oath by breaking the covenant

Omitted Cross-Referenced Scriptures by OTB:

Ezekiel 16:15-16, 32-34

15 But because of your fame, you trusted in your beauty and played the harlot. You lavished your favors on everyone who passed by, and your beauty was theirs for the asking. **16** You took some of your garments and made colorful high places for yourself, and on them you prostituted yourself. Such things should not have happened; never should they have occurred!

32 You adulterous wife! You receive strangers instead of your own husband! 33 Men give gifts to all their prostitutes, but you gave gifts to all your lovers. You bribed them to come to you from everywhere for your illicit favors. 34 So your prostitution is the opposite of that of other women: No one solicited your favors, and you paid a fee instead of receiving one; so you are the very opposite!

Jude 1:7

“... In a similar way, **Sodom and Gomorrah** and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to **sexual immorality** [*“ekporneuó” sexual immoralities, plural*] and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire ...”

2 Peter 2:6-8,10

“if He [God] condemned the cities of **Sodom and Gomorrah** to **destruction**, reducing them to ashes as an example of what is coming on the ungodly; and if He rescued Lot, a righteous man distressed by the depraved conduct of the **lawless** (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)”

10 Such **punishment** is specially reserved for those **who indulge the corrupt desires of the flesh** [*i.e., sexuality immorality*] and despise authority.”

Isaiah 1:10,16, 21

10 Hear the word of the LORD, **you rulers of Sodom** [*figuratively Jesusalem*]; listen to the instruction of our God, you people of Gomorrah!

16 Wash and cleanse yourselves. Remove your evil deeds from My sight. Stop doing evil! ...

21 See how the faithful city has become a **harlot** [*one who does sexual immorality*]! She once was full of justice; righteousness resided within her, but now only murderers!

Leviticus 20:13

“... If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed **an abomination**; they shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them ...”

Leviticus 18:22

“... You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is **an abomination**. You must not lie with a man as with a woman;...”

1 Timothy 1:8-11

“But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully, knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for fornicators, for sodomites [*arsenokoitais*, “*a male’s bed*” *that is, a man having sex with another man*], for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine, according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust.”

1 Cor. 6:9-10

9 “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals [*μαλακοί*, “*effeminate men*”], nor sodomites [*arsenokoitai*, “*a male’s bed, and male having sex with another male*”], 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.”

Romans 1:18-19, 24-32

18 **“For the wrath of God** is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, **who suppress the truth** in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God **is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.** ... 24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in **the lusts of their hearts**, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25 **who exchanged the truth** of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. 26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. **For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature** *[i.e., women having sex with other women]*. 27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, **men with men** committing what is shameful and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. ... 32 **who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.**

Matthew 5:17 “Do not think that I [Jesus] have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.” *[Law = God’s moral and sexual commandments in the OT]*

Matthew 5:18 “For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.”

Matt 23:1-3 “Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to His disciples: “The scribes and Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat [*i.e., the Law of Moses*]. So practice and observe everything they tell you...”

Luke 5:32 “I (Jesus) have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”

John 8:11 “And Jesus said [to the adulteress], ... go, and from now on **sin no more.**”

Mark 7:20-23 “He [Jesus] went on: “What comes out of a person is what defiles them. For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual **immorality** [*plural form, addresses all sexual immoralities under the Mosaic law**], theft, murder, **adultery**, greed, malice, deceit, **lewdness**, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and defile a person.”

[in these verse Jesus clearly condemns all sexual sins identified in the Law: fornication, adultery, homosexuality, incest, and bestiality, please see Lev. 20 & Deut. 22*]*

Matt 5:28 “But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

[Jesus actually strengthens the sexual moral law of God, not changing it, by addressing both the actions of our bodies and the thoughts of our minds]

Matthew 19:4-6 [4] “[Jesus said] Haven't you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them **male and female,**’ [5] and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? [6] So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore **what God has joined together, let no one separate.**”

*[In Jesus’ teaching on sexuality, not only did he affirm the sexual standards of the Law (**Mark 7:20-23**), but made it clear that sexual union is to be limited to one man with one woman.]*

Matt 18:6

6 “But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.”

Parting Question: What is Jesus saying thru His Scriptures to you?