

The Simple Gospel

How do we live it?

Pastor Craig Sweeney | October 19, 2025

- 6) According to both Jesus and James, why is addressing sin early so important?
- 7) How do you see the Holy Spirit's role in helping us walk out purity and renewal?
- 8) How can pursuing purity lead to greater joy and freedom in your relationship with God?

Colossians 3:1–10 (NLT)

- 9) What do you notice about Paul's emphasis on what we set our minds on?
- 10) What practical steps can help you 'put to death' what Paul describes in verse 5?
- 11) What does Paul's command to "put on your new nature" in Colossians 3:10 practically look like in your daily life?

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

Think about the following questions and pray through them with Jesus.

1. What area of your heart or mind do you need to surrender to God for cleansing?
2. What practical step will you take this week to guard your eyes and thoughts?
3. Spend time asking the Holy Spirit to renew your heart and restore purity of mind.

"You have heard the commandment that says, 'You must not commit adultery' But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. So if your eye—even your good eye—causes you to lust, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your hand—even your stronger hand — causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell."

Matthew 5:27-30 NLT

Thread: There is a relationship between your heart and lust.

Hyperbole is helpful

- Hyperbole illustrates in the extreme the plain truth being ignored.

What's Jesus goal in this teaching?

- A better righteousness.

"But I warn you—unless your righteousness is better than the righteousness of the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven!" **Matthew 5:20 NLT**

I want your heart. Your actions are not enough.

What's your goal?

- To offer Him your heart, every day.

How to destroy your mind, your heart and your marriage/romantic relationship in 10 easy steps.

Step 1: Be where you're not supposed to be.

Step 2: See what you're not supposed to see.

Step 3: Play out in your mind the toxic story you want to be in.

"...when you are being tempted, do not say, 'God is tempting me.' God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death." **James 1:13-15 NLT**

- Step 4: Tell yourself it's not toxic.
 Step 5: Tell yourself it's actually good.
 Step 6: Tell yourself the negative consequences are manageable.
 Step 7: Believe your fictional story.
 Step 8: Send for Bathsheba.
 Step 9: Invite her/him into your fiction.
 Step 10: Devastation.

Time to MOVE

"Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven," **Colossians 3:1 NLT**

1. Fix your eyes on the things of Heaven.

2. Hold your gaze.

"Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory." **Colossians 3:2-4 NLT**

3. Strengthen yourself daily.

"So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires." **Colossians 3:5 NLT**

4. Set up the guard rails. Guardrails guide you to the place you're headed.

- Accountability friend
- Covenant eyes app

5. Seek the work of the Holy Spirit's washing and cleansing and removal of the problem.

"Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him." **Colossians 3:10 NLT**

6. Seek the strength and power of the Holy Spirit's work to guard your eyes and heart.

Challenge:

- What's your goal?
- Time to move?
- What do you really want?
- What's next for you?

For practical, cross-cultural Bible studies related to sermon topics, visit DougBrittonBooks.com/resources

Homework

Simple Gospel

Fall 2025 | Week 6

Message Date 10/19/2025

MY STORY

- 1) If you could swap eyesight with any animal for a day (eagle, chameleon, cat, etc.), which would you pick and why?
- 2) If you had to create a new national holiday based on something ridiculous you love, what would it celebrate and how would people observe it?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday's message?

DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME

Matthew 5:27–30 (NLT)

- 4) What is Jesus really saying about sin and lust here?

James 1:13–15 (NLT)

13 "And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, 'God is tempting me.' God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. 14 Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. 15 These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death."

- 5) How does James' description of temptation deepen our understanding of what Jesus said?