



## **“The Heart of Fidelity & Purity II”**

August 1, 2021

*“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” - Matthew 5:27–28*

*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. 6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. 7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. 8 But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. - Colossians 3:1-10*

1. What do you see as some of the positives of the “Billy Graham” rule (never travel, meet, or eat with a woman alone other than your wife)? In what ways do you see this rule as harmful to women?
2. In what ways did Jesus’ life, example and ministry in the gospels exemplify a different (even radical) way of relating to women?
3. Read Matt 5:27-30. Jesus consistently confronts the inner issue of the heart versus outward displays of obedience. In what ways have you seen Christian “purity culture” or legalism fail to deal with the heart?
4. Read Colossians 3:1-10. What are some things you do that has helped you “set your mind on things above” and identify and address the deeper heart issues of sin vs the surface-level symptoms?