

## Counter-cultural Lifestyle

*Matthew 5:21-48*

***What is Christ's counter-cultural instruction for the way we should live our lives in the area of anger?***

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- Matthew 5:22 – three levels of anger: 1) do not get angry, 2) do not insult others, and 3) do not call other people names;
- Matthew 5:24 – reconcile with people you have problems with before you go to worship
- Matthew 5:25 – avoid anger to avoid ending up in court

***What is Christ's counter-cultural instruction for the way we should live our lives in the area of lust?***

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- Matthew 5:28 – Jesus takes the law to not commit adultery to the next level—don't even look at a woman with lust;
- Matthew 5:29-30 – he suggests drastic measures to avoid this issue;
- 2018 Pornography Statistics (<https://www.charismanews.com/us/73208-15-statistics-about-the-church-and-pornography-that-will-blow-your-mind>)
- Illustration: “Dad will you take my data plan off my phone?”
- Accountability is the key!
- Jesus addressed the men looking at women, but in our world today, women are beginning to struggle with this issue also.

***What is Christ's counter-cultural instruction for the way we should live our lives in the area of divorce?***

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- Matthew 5:32 – we've got to get beyond the idea that marriage is something that we will give a try to see if it will work out; there's no way out; we've got to resolve in our hearts that it will work.
- Matthew 19:5-8 – Moses allowed divorce because of the hardness of their hearts, but it was not that way from the beginning;

- The culture tells us that a cheating spouse does not deserve a second chance, but it is God's will that the bonds of marriage never be broken.
- We've got to get this mindset in our brains today:  
If I marry, it is for life! That's God's design!
- What if I have had a divorce and now I'm remarried? What should I do? Stay married! Make it work! Do everything you can to stay together! That is living counter to the culture!
- We must get rid of the idea of disposable marriages.

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*What is Christ's counter-cultural instruction for the way we should live our lives in the area of swearing oaths?*

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- Matthew 5:33-35 – Do not swear an oath at all!
- Matthew 5:37 – Just tell the truth, and let your character and your lifestyle speak more loudly than words of swearing to God that something is true!
- I don't have to "swear to God" or "swear on somebody's grave" to convince people that I am telling the truth if my lifestyle has character.
- This is what it means to be a "man of your word."  
Let your "yes" be "yes" and your "no" be "no."

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*What is Christ's counter-cultural instruction for the way we should live our lives in the area of retaliation?*

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- Matthew 5:39b – do not retaliate when faced with physical violence;
- We must not allow people to control or manipulate our emotions and cause us to respond in an ungodly manner.
- Romans 12:17-21
- We cannot be people who seek revenge—the world does but God is calling us to live at a higher level. He's calling us to live counter to the culture.

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