



Deadly Sin one: Lust

Most of the words describing the Seven deadly sins are not used anymore. We don't call someone a glutton. We don't say someone is slothful. It's the same with the word Lust. It's not a common word. In the dictionary, Lust is called a strong sexual desire. Believe it or not but Lust has its own Wikipedia page. I guess it must be popular still. The word Lust in Wikipedia's understanding is *"a psychological force producing intense wanting or longing for an object, or circumstance fulfilling the emotion."* Do I lust for Sports?

In the Bible, Lust is mainly used in conjunction with what we want. The word "our" lust is attached to sex, objects, and desire. However, it is also used as a metaphor to describe nations and objects. Lust attaches itself (in the Bible) to powerful horses and feelings. Lust is strong. Lust is desirable. Why is it called deadly? Can't we lust after God? Psalm 42:1 says *"As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God."* The word "pants" could be described as strong breathing. It's not Lusts, but (in a way) we could lust for God.

Lust is a tough call. I have had the privilege of falling for several women. There was not a minute in the day where I did not think about her. Sure, some take it too far. We have stalkers. Yet, is it lust for another or intense hormonal desires that drove me? Why do teenagers' lust for

one another (hormones)? Young people have a hard time controlling their stirring desires. Adults do too. We love the bar on a Saturday night. We long for the weekend or a certain trip. I see it all the time. We do lust for the world around us.

The Bible says in 1 Peter, that we should control and avoid our lusts. The writer attaches another word (depraved) to the word Lust. My son made a comment about God that fits. He said that God must be sadistic to put humans in a world full of beautiful things and then ask us not to lust over them. Is he wrong in saying that? Ephesians 4 says we must put away our lusts that the world offers. It seems as humans, we are put in a terrible position. Why? It's because the world has a ton of shiny things to lust over.

Throughout history God has given us free will. Generally, God asks us to repent, control our lusts, and go another way. It is not in his character to demand all the time. Instead, I find he prefers to ask like in Hosea 14:1 *“Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity”* or Nehemiah 1:9 *“but if you return to Me and keep My commandments and do them, though those of you who have been scattered were in the most remote part of the heavens, I will gather them from there and will bring them to the place where I have chosen to cause My name to dwell.”*

Lust is a sin only because we put “it” before God, others, and ourselves. A drunk lusts for drink. A stalker might lust for another against their will. A gambler lusts for the feeling of winning. These lusts usually impose themselves on other people. We will drink at the expense of our bills. We gamble at the expense of rent. Our sexual lusts might impose themselves on the free will of a woman who says “no.” We do lust for the wrong reasons.

People use different words (for lust) like longing, greed, and desire. I typed in Lust on the net and I was a little surprised that sex did not really show up. I saw a ton of links to rich people. God uses the word Lust in every way. We lust for things like money. Nations lust for power over a region. I fear church denominations lust over God at the expense of family, other churches, and appearance. Lust is not just a worldly thing. A Christian could lust for God at the expense of a spouse, health, or time. We all lust. I find it's so human to do so.

So, what to do with Lust? Can we really get past it? How is it a deadly sin? I feel that Lust is deadly when we put on horse blinders. We do things that we desire at the expense of bills and work. I know a person who does pot before work. Is his lust to be high above work and safety? I know a group of people who lust over their sexual preference. It's so bad that they condemn and fight against anyone who does not approve of their actions. Is that lust? I know a woman that posts hateful things about her job. Yet, she is always longing for her trips. Lusting after the good side of life. Is she a tyrant at work? I believe we all can fall for Lust in many forms.

Is it deadly or bad in Gods eyes? Taking our focus off of God means we rely on the world. Generally, the world condemns the lust of riches and murder. They don't like rape and gambling debts. The world is not that Lust friendly as we think. Yet, the world will lust over sport on Sunday. Asking us politely to look away from church. The world will watch porn instead of reading a book. I think Lust is deadly because you can't have it both ways. We can't love God and Porn. We can't gamble and save money. There is no partying while attending a church club. Lust wants all of you. It consumes and focuses only on you and the thing you desire. What usually happens is that Lust runs over the things that really matter. That can be deadly as Pope Gregory said. Lust most certainly belongs on the deadly list.