

MOUNTAINSTREAMNEWS

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RADICAL AMPUTATION

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



Matthew 5:29-30
 “If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.”

This statement from Jesus is absolutely stunning. Is Jesus actually asking us to maim ourselves in order to avoid damnation?

No. Jesus is not asking us to physically harm ourselves. But he is making a point that is vitally necessary for us to consider and embrace.

Jesus is reminding us that desires exert profound influence over our choices and actions. Desires, improperly cultivated, and/or left unchecked will lead to heinous acts of selfish gratification that ultimately lead to judgment. The particular example in the immediate context of Jesus’ statement is sexual sin. Sexual desire is a healthy, God-given desire but it can be perverted into vile lustful thoughts and actions. Jesus warns us that even engaging in fantasy exercises in this area is sin. But these principles also apply to other areas of our lives where desires can run rampant.

One of the steps we can take to manage, and tame our desires is to choke off the incitement of our senses. The things we hear, see, and touch often provide fuel for our desires. Jesus is advocating a rigorous watchfulness coupled with decisive corrective actions. We must ruthlessly eradicate from our lives the avenues of temptation. We must radically am-

putate whatever is helping to lead us into sin.

For some of us this might mean deactivating some of the features on our devices. Some of us may need to give up cable services! We may need to abandon certain forms of pastimes/recreation because they provoke unholy desires in us.

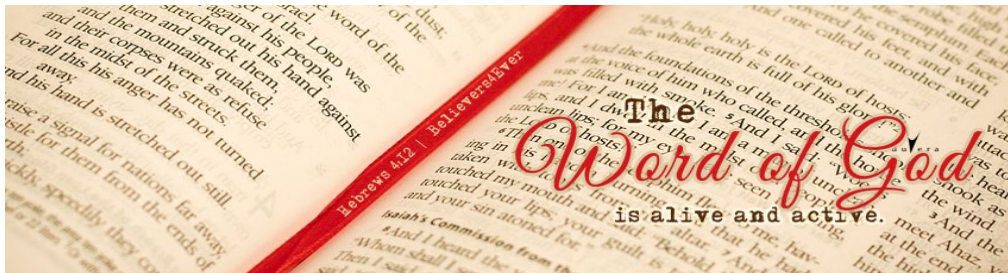
Do not treat these stirrings lightly, or as inconsequential. Left unchecked, they will pervert and destroy us.

May God give us the spiritual guts to do radical spiritual amputation whenever necessary!

God bless you,

Pastor James

STOP WASTING TIME! SOCIAL MEDIA CAN'T SUSTAIN YOU TO RUN THE RACE TO THE FINISH.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Kevin Keitt & Kelvin Lewis are to be received into membership soon. Contact Pastor James if you have any comments.
- Monthly Online Evening Service Sunday 6 pm. Contact Pastor for Zoom login information.
- Bible reading plans for 2021 are available at the Information Table and on our website. Pick up a copy or download one today.
- The Church’s (AGM) Annual General (Business) Meeting will be held online on **Saturday, January 16 @ 4 pm**. Members will be emailed login information.
- We are excited to have you at our in-person worship at 11 am on Sundays. Please call ahead to 570 856 3310 or email us at mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com to let us know you are coming.
- Please see our webpage for detailed information on in-person gatherings.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

CORPORATE PRAYER TUE @ 7 PM	MONTHLY EVENING SERVICE EVERY 3RD SUN @ 6 PM	WORSHIP SERVICE SUN @ 11 AM
January 12 Join us via Zoom video Please contact Pastor James for log on information at rcantio@gmail.com	January 17 Please contact us by phone (570 856 3310) or email (mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com or rcantio@gmail.com) for login information.	January 17 In-person service and livestream. Livestreaming only on Facebook and our church's website.
QUICK TIPS Two ways to give your offering. Traditional with a check by mail or through our secured website online giving is now possible. Please remember to hit "SAVE" after you give if you did not set up an account so the church can have a record of who gave for tax purposes. Thank you!	YOUTH GROUP FRI @ 6:45 PM	VIRTUAL KIDZONE SUN @ 4 PM
	January 15 Youth meetings are in-person at church.	January 17 Kidzone is available every Sunday. Contact Candice at candicebrich@gmail.com for log on information.