I. Slide 1 Announce:
   A. Slide 2 The Stir Musicians Fellowship - Join Kevin Terry & Zach Bell as they host the next Stir on Sat Jan 16th. All instruments & skill levels welcome.
   B. Slide 3 Justice Sunday - at the end of this month, Jan 24th, we have decided this year instead of our 5th conference, we’d host instead a Justice Sunday.
      1. I will start the morning on why Justice should be who we are not something extra we do. Followed by Dr. Sandra Morgan from the Global Center for Women & Justice (@ Vanguard Univ). And a powerful testimony of a victorious survivor from Orange County.
      2. Also, workshops will be offered during 2nd & 3rd service. The gym will be full of Exhibitors & Organizations for to learn & partner with. Lunch will be on us.
   C. Slide 4 Pray for Peru Team & Ukraine team.

II. Slide 5 Intro: Pandemic [from Greek pandēmos from pan all + dēmos people] adultery/divorce/lust
   A. A Rabbinical saying, “The eye and the heart are two brokers of sin.”
   B. Since, hatred of the heart is murder...then, lust of the heart is adultery.
      1. 1st Jesus dealt w/the sanctity of Life. Now He deals w/the Sanctity of Marriage
      2. He moves from the 6th now to the 7th commandment.
   C. Anger & Lust are 2 very powerful things, they both really reach down & touch the core of our being.
      1. And from the disciples sitting in front of Jesus on the wild grass of Galilee’s hillside to each of us sitting on gray chairs today...none of us can fit yourself into His kingdom. Jesus set the standard far too high. (we must come thru HIS Rt)
      2. Jesus has a more exacting standard for His followers than what the Jewish Law demands.
   D. Again, Jesus deals with the present day misconceptions, misinterpretations, & bad rabbinical explanations.
   E. Slide 6 True story...in 1631, Baker & Lukas published a Bible in England now called the Wicked Bible, because the little word not was omitted in the 7th commandment, “Thou shall commit adultery”. The printers were heavily fined by the High Commission & the whole edition destroyed. [Today it it would probably become a best seller]
F. I read, 1 in 6 couples met online this last year. 1 in 5 blame divorce on FB.
   1. I say that only to point out that today we have even more challenges to face on the topic of marriage, lust, divorce & remarriage.

III. Slide7 ADULTERY/LUST (27-30)
   A. THE 7th COMMANDMENT (27)
   B. Adultery - is a consensual sexual relationship between one or more married persons with someone other than their spouse.
      1. It is not enough simply to refrain from the act of adultery. Lust, too, is sinful & is the beginning point for actually committing adultery.
   C. THE INTENT (28)
   D. Lust - To have sexual desires or urges toward a person who is not one’s spouse.
      1. Thoughts as well as actions constitute sin. Jesus focuses on the source of the problem by dealing with sin where it starts: the mind.
   E. Slide8a Divine Law not only refers to the act of a sin, but even to the very desire, imagination, or passion of it.
   F. Jesus says mental adultery is sin.
      1. Not Looking at a woman (for we must do this daily), but to look w/lust at her.
   G. Slide8b If the Act is wrong, so is the Intention.
   H. Jesus again touches vice at the fountain-head, & forbids uncleanness in the heart.
      1. If sin were not allowed in the mind, it would never be manifest in the body.
   I. Slide8c What sign hangs on your minds-door?
      2. Couples: Are you as faithful to your spouse w/your mind as w/your body?
      3. Singles: Do you use...well if I was married, this temptation wouldn’t be as great, as an excuse?
   J. While desire is not as dangerous an action, it is just as damaging to righteousness.
1. Left unchecked, wrong desires will result in wrong actions & turn you away from God.

K. Slide8d Lust is: The craving for salt of a man who is dying of thirst (only makes u more thirsty)

1. Slide9 Lust is like the Leach in Prov.30:15, that has 2 daughters, Give, Give.
   a) Four things are personified as never satisfied: the grave wants to take in more of the dead. The barren womb longs to give birth to a child. The land always wants water. And fire wants to continue to consume.
      (1) Death and fire are destructive, and the womb and water are life-giving.
      (2) Greed always wants more.
   b) Leeches are incredible animals. Leech has 32 brains. They can survive loss of 9/10 of their body weight and exposure to heavy chemicals. Although leech pierces skin and sucks a huge amount of blood, process is not painful at all. Leech produces anesthetic which reduces the pain and allows undisturbed extraction of blood.
   c) A leach can consume 3 times its body weight. It can get 16” long. It also has 2 sucking disks at each end. [Lust is similar, it never gets satisfied]

2. If we give sin reign, you will find your self controlled, rather than “in control.”

L. Slide10 Jobs view on lust - Job 31:9-12, also 1.

1. 9 If my heart has been seduced by a woman, or if I have lusted for my neighbor’s wife, 10 then let my wife serve another man; let other men sleep with her. 11 For lust is a shameful sin, a crime that should be punished. 12 It is a fire that burns all the way to hell. It would wipe out everything I own. vs.1 I made a covenant with my eyes not to look with lust at a young woman.

M. Slide11a WHAT TO DO? (29,30)

N. If your right eye/hand causes you to sin...

1. Causes = σκανδαλίζω is the bait stick in a trap, that springs the trap.

O. This is the call for radical action to prevent and eradicate sin.

1. He was speaking hyperbole and shouldn’t be taken literally.

2. He maintains that we should be cautious concerning the avoidance of sin, making every effort to remain pure.
P. Literal?

Q. Slide 11b Origen (185-254) an outstanding church father, was so convicted of his own sinfulness by reading these verses that he made himself castrated (too which later he said...opps!)

R. What's the problem of a literal right eye removal? You still have a left eye. And if you removed that one too? As a blind man from our church a long time ago shared with me... a blind man can still lust in his heart.

S. So then, what is Jesus saying?

T. Examine your life for anything that causes you to sin & take necessary action to remove it

1. Nothing, no matter how precious it seems to us at the moment, should be allowed to doom our glorious destiny.

U. Slide 11c Sin must not be pampered, it must be put to death.

1. Col.3:5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

V. Dillydallying is definitely Deadly.

1. Deal with that sin today. The obscene websites - delete them. The flirty relationships - break them. The sinful habits - shake them into the fire.

2. Make that decision right here at church, don’t wait till later. Come up with a game plan (I need to tell someone. I need help. Accountability. A group to be apart of).

3. In the fight against sin you must fight against it, not shadow box.

W. When you have made your eye the instrument of impurity, you cannot see God w/it.

1. Picture making a clear glass of water mirky...then trying to look through it.

X. To be cast into Hell/Gehenna is too great a risk to run, merely to indulge the evil eye of lust or curiosity.

1. Slide 11d Better a blind saint than a quick-sighted sinner.

Y. Spurgeon prayed, Lord, I love thee better than my eyes & hands: let me never delay for a moment to the giving up of all for Thee.

1. How do I love Jesus more than my eyes & hands?

IV. Slide 12 DIVORCE/EXCEPTION (31,32)
A. Slide13a **DIVORCE CERTIFICATES** (31)

B. Let’s remember a **man** could divorce his **wife**, but a **wife** could not divorce her **husband** back in Moses’ day.

1. To give some protection to **wives**, the **Law** required a husband to provide the wife he was divorcing with a **certificate of divorce**. Deut.24

C. Slide13b 2 Rabbis Divorce views: [Jesus’ life overlapped both. Shammai died 30ad. Hillel 10ad]

1. **Shammai** - Conservative (Sexual Immorality only).

2. **Hillel** - Liberal (The requirement for divorce was simply say to your wife 3 times, “I Divorce you.”) clicking heels was optional.

   a) If this was true today many would already be divorced the way **threats of divorce** are thrown around so much.

   b) With this **hasty divorce** going on in **Moses** day, he insisted on a **Writing of Divorcement** so that angry passions might have **time to cool**.

   (1) It in theory is **similar** to California’s 6 month **cooling off period** for divorce

D. Slide13c **EXCEPTION CLAUSE** (32)

E. Except for her infidelity - Not, a 100 reasons to divorce.

F. Jesus seems to indicate that **sexual infidelity** is an **acceptable** reason for divorce; all other reasons render subsequent marriages **adulterous**. (biblical divorce vs. non-biblical divorce)

1. Slide13d Actually, there is **1 more** in 1 Cor.7:15 that Paul gives, we call it the abandonment clause. **But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases.** (thus **free** if no longer in **bondage**)

G. If God’s word has given you the permission, don’t let anyone tell you otherwise. But also even as the Word gives **general permission**, stop & ask for **specific permission**, **your own personal green light** through prayer.

H. Slide14a God hates divorce. Malachi 2:16 **For the Lord God of Israel says That He hates divorce, For it covers one’s garment with violence.**

1. Of course He does. **Who doesn’t?** It destroys **families, individuals, children...no matter their age.**
a) **Divorcees hate the embarrassment. They hate the stigma. They hate feeling that they failed the marriage. They hate the loneliness. They hate putting their friends or family members in the place of having to choose sides.**

(1) **Slide14b** But it **doesn’t** say, **I hate the divorced!**

b) **We should be happy He hates divorce, otherwise we’d have been divorced from Him long ago.**

c) **He hates drunkenness, He hates lewdness, He hates them for what they produce. i.e. ruined lives, loss of faithfulness, collapse of hopes.**

I. **Malachi is a prophet speaking w/absolute clarity the divine displeasure when divorce has become run-of-the-mill routine in a declining society.**

J. A divorce reform movement took place in the early **1970s** in Great Britain **and** the US. The movement was initiated by a group, assembled by the archbishop of Canterbury, who proposed a single, **no-fault** *(blame is assigned to neither party)* ground that required a judge to grant divorce if he or she finds that the marriage is **irretrievably broken**.

1. The notion of **irretrievable breakdown** was promoted in the U.S. by the **Uniform Marriage and Divorce Act.**

2. **Slide14c** States offering no-fault divorce in 1957: **1**
   States offering no-fault divorce in 1995: **50**
   a) **What this country needs is more, no-fault marriages.**

K. **Let’s clear up one thing:** Pollster Louis Harris has written, "The idea that **half** of American marriages are doomed is one of the most **specious pieces of statistical nonsense** ever perpetuated in modern times." It all began when the Census Bureau noted that during **one year**, there were **2.4 million marriages** and **1.2 million divorces**. Someone did the math **without** calculating the 54 million marriages **already in existence**, and presto, a ridiculous but quotable statistic was born. Harris concludes, "Only **1 out of 8** marriages will end in divorce. In any single year, only about **2 percent** of existing marriages will break up."²

1. **Slide15a** Those who **live together** before marriage, separate and divorce in significantly greater numbers than those who go directly to the altar.

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¹ USA Today (1/25/96). "To Verify," Leadership.
L. Cover one’s *garment* with violence – As we use a *wedding ring*, ancient Israel used *their garment* to cover whom they would marry (i.e. Boaz w/Ruth).

1. If they *divorced*, instead of having a *garment* that symbolized *love*, it would symbolize *violence*.

M. Slide15b My Thoughts:

1. As we tackle this subject it is not my desire to pick at scabs. I understand the sheer numbers of those who have been, or are right now being affected by divorce.

2. At age 27 when I took over the church, I knew everything...now at age 54 I know I no longer do. *Meaning*, the individual situations of divorce/remarriage are complex, involved, & some are like untying the legendary *Gordian knot*.
   a) I know, God hates divorce & God permits divorce in certain cases.
   b) I know then, He deems some *biblical divorce* & some *unbiblical divorces*.
   c) I believe, that just *dwelling at the same address* isn’t the answer if the problems aren’t being dealt with.
   d) I believe, those of us who officiate weddings (bigger in our day than *our CM pastors*) have a *high accountability* to whom we marry (don’t take that lightly if you are asked to officiate someone’s wedding ceremony).
   e) I believe, divorce is so high because we have forgotten how to *leave our parents, cleave to our wives & understand the importance of intimacy of oneness, in our day & age*.
   f) I believe, we can miss the whole point here if we are comfortable keeping our marriages in tact w/o keeping our *lust* at bay.

N. Slide16 Statistics from a video from rescuefreedom.org.

1. 85% of young men & nearly half of young women watch porn on a reg basis.

2. When you click on an image, even a free image of pornography, *"your fantasy...is that girls nightmare."*

3. You don't know what she's been through, what she was promised, or how she was trapped into doing it. *You only see her smiling and looking like she's enjoying everything.*
4. Pornography is integral to human trafficking and prostitution.  
   a) In 9 countries almost half (49%) said that pornography was made of them while they were in prostitution.

5. This generation fights sex trafficking more than anyone ever has...More than anyone ever has, this generation consumes porn.  
   a) Fighting human trafficking and then watching porn is like protesting a corrupt politician and then donating to his campaign.

6. You can come and view at your pleasure, but she is stuck in this life because you click.  
   a) Each click. Each link. Each URL visit & play button is the currency of porn. This is the price of her life.

7. The $100 billion pornography industry is fueling the appetite for children as well  
   a) Teenage girls now make up the biggest slice of viewable porn, which by definition is considered trafficking.

8. The demand for porn fuels the trafficking industry and you can take away that demand. You can cut the cord on this machine. You can bankrupt the system. You can empty the pimps pocket. You can free Anna by simply refusing to click. [Rescuefreedom.org]

O. Slide17 Marriage & sexual immorality are both serious business w/God.  
   1. Heb.13:4 Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.  
   2. We shouldn't even hint at sexual immorality. Eph.5:3niv But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.

P. Communion:  
   1. Bread -  
   2. Cup -