

**Cultivating
a Christian Character**

***Studies in
The Sermon on the Mount
Matthew chapters 5-7***

***Marriage Guidance
Matthew 5.27-32***

1. Watch Your Looks! vs27-30

*especially when it comes to beautiful women!
adultery begins in the heart – what we desire
fantasies are fuelled by what we see*

2 Sam 11.1-4; Job 31.1,9-11

*admire and thank God for beauty
but don't lust for what's off limits*

*true beauty is about character, not just looks
1 Peter 3.3-4*

so choose true believers

2 Cor 6.14-15; 1 Cor 7.39

*make short-term sacrifices for long-term gains
not mutilation, but self-discipline vs 29-30*

2. Don't Spilt Up! vs31-32

over trivial matters

***The Scriptures sought to safeguard
the permanence of marriage Dt 24.1-4***

what grounds for divorce? Mat 19.3

***marriage is meant to be forever Mat 19.4-6
a divine bond, not a human contract***

***divorce was merely permitted Mat 19.7-8
not part of God's original plan Gen 2.18,24
God hates divorce Mal 2.16***

***divorce gives rise to adultery Mat 19.9; 5.23
unless it has already occurred***

***these are the ground rules
for Christ's disciples Mat 19.10-11***

2. Don't Spilt Up!

separation without re-marriage 1 Cor 7.10-11

when the situation is desperate

- but always hope for reconciliation

desertion by an unbeliever 1 Cor 7.12-16

don't force anyone out vs 12-14

but don't force them to stay

if they want to leave vs 15-16

keep the door ajar for future reunion