

A SANCTIFIED LIFE – PART 1

1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-4

SEXUALITY AND THE BELIEVER—LIVING LIVES OF MORAL PURITY IN A SEX-OBSESSED WORLD

Today's message will be ***PG-13*** and ***MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR PRETEENS***; I ask that all children under 13 go to their respective classes.

- Paul uses two words to describe the importance of this message: “*urge and exhort.*” Living a pure life in an impure world is a real battle.

MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

It is one thing to **PLACE** ourselves in the Christian life, but it is another thing to **PROSPER** in it. God wants us to move beyond our salvation experience to full maturity.

- The Christian life is not simply a set of rules, but a set of directional principles.
- Christians should have some **KNOW-HOW**. We should know how to gain victory over sin in our lives.

***THERE IS A LOGICAL AND MORAL IMPERATIVE TO PROGRESS
IN OUR WALK IN ORDER TO PLEASE GOD.***

YOU CANNOT DO WHAT THE WORLD DOES AND PLEASE GOD!

An “*acceptable walk*” is a walk that pleases God.

- Unfortunately, many of us make Jesus frown and wince as we walk in sexual sin, which is absolutely not worthy of what He did at Calvary.
- God’s Word is not good suggestions; they are commands from the Commander-in-Chief. **1 THESS. 4:2**
- King Jesus issued these orders directly from H.Q. and we must follow them if we want victory.

GOD'S WILL AND OUR SEXUALITY v. 3

REMINDER: like all other things ***"GOD-CREATED,"*** sex is "very good"—but only as God created it in marriage.

- There are many areas of life where we do not know the explicit/exact will of God, but sexuality is not one of them.
- We know implicitly the *"will of God"* when it comes to the boundaries of sexual relationships.
- God's Word gives believers ***ABSOLUTES*** so we can make godly decisions in the area of sexuality.

GOD'S WILL: SANCTIFICATION

The idea of “*your sanctification*” means “**separation to God.**”

1 COR. 1:30; 2 THESS. 2:13

THREE KINDS OF SANCTIFICATION IN THE BIBLE:

- **FIRSTLY**, positional sanctification is our eternal status quo with God as completely set apart as His children forever at salvation. **HEB. 2:11; 1 PETER 1:2**
- The **SECOND** kind of sanctification is progressive sanctification—we keep maturing. **2 COR. 3:18**
- The **THIRD** is our ultimate sanctification, our final glorification in Heaven. **ROM. 8:29-30**

GOD'S SPECIFIC WILL

“That you should abstain from sexual immorality.”

- If there is an area where Christians need to know God's specific will, it is this—God has left no detail out regarding human sexuality.
- We should not try to come as close to the fire as we can without being burned.
- It is interesting that the Bible's solution to sexual sin is to *“flee”*—run away—turn away—turn tail and book it! . . . *not check her out, she's hot—he's a hunk.*

1 COR. 6:18; 2 TIM. 2:22; 1 PETER 2:11-12

GET YOUR DEFINITION CORRECT!

“*Sexual immorality*” comes from the Greek word “***porneia***” and means all sexual activity outside of marriage: prostitution, homosexuality, fornication, sexual lust, sexual fondling, all pornography (pictures or not), and even sexually provocative writing like sex-laden romance novels—***ANYTHING THAT STIMULATES LUST.***

- To the contrary, God gave sex in marriage for us to enjoy.
PROV. 5:15-19; 1 COR. 7:1-9; SONG OF SOLOMON

SOME “KNOW-HOW” NEEDED v. 4

Avoiding sexual temptation requires some “know-how”—which we learn from the Word of God.

- The word “*vessel*” is a euphemistic way of referring to our sexual life. We must make a clean-cut break with sexual sins.
- Our sex life should be holy and honorable, in the bounds of biblical marriage.

***WE MUST FLEE SIN AND PURSUE GOD—
TAKE DECISIVE ACTION!***