



“Sexual Sin” (I Thessalonians 4:1-8)

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I. GOD’S WILL: SANCTIFICATION

- * Sanctify: To set apart as holy

II. GOD’S WILL: SEXUAL SANCTIFICATION

- * I Cor.6: The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

- * What is sexual immorality?

- Sexual involvement with anyone who is not biblically your husband/wife. Same sex marriage is not biblical marriage. Homosexuality is sexual perversion. This does not at all mean that does not love homosexuals. God loves all people, but that does not alter the truth (Lev.18:22; 20:13; Rom.1:24-27).

- * Why is sexual immorality wrong?

- God designed sex for marriage; 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.

- Holy union intended to reflect Christ and the church (his bride).

- Adam and Eve

- II Cor.11: 2 I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.

- * I Cor.6:18

- * Because it is a natural God-given drive, it is an easy sin to fall prey to.

- Rev.2: 14 (Pergamum) Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality.

- Numbers 25:1 While Israel was staying in Shittim, the men began to indulge in sexual immorality with Moabite women,² who invited them to the sacrifices to their gods. The people ate and bowed down before these gods.

- * God promises to punish those who practice sexual sin (v.6b)

- See Rev.2:20-23

- I Cor.10: 8 We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died.

- Jude 7 In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.

- See Gal.5:19-21

* The culture of Thessalonica, and pretty much the entire Greco-Roman world, made it a challenge to keep oneself pure sexually. Worship of many ancient gods actually included sexual sin. It is not much different today.

* Michael McManus, author of the book [Marriage Savers](#). Statistically speaking, living together is not a trial of marriage, but rather a training for divorce. The number of unmarried couples living together soared 12-fold from 430,000 in 1960 to 5.4 million in 2005. More than eight out of ten couples who live together will break up either before the wedding or afterwards in divorce. Couples who do marry after living together are 50% more likely to divorce than those who did not.

III. THE MARKS OF ONE SANCTIFIED REGARDING SEXUAL IMMORALITY.

A. They Do Not Take Advantage Of Another Person Sexually (v.6a)

* Luke 17:1 Jesus said to his disciples: "Things that cause people to sin are bound to come, but woe to that person through whom they come.

2 It would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around his neck than for him to cause one of these little ones to sin.

3 So watch yourselves.

* I Tim.5: 2 (treat) older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.

B. They Know That Sexual Sin Is Against God, Not Just Man (v.8)

* Psalm 51: 2 Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.

C. They Have Learned To Control Their Bodies

* II Peter 2: 19 They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity--for ***a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him.***

* How to develop "sexual control"

1. Fortify

- Fortify: To strengthen or invigorate physically, mentally, or morally.

- My mind (Phil.3:18-19; Rom.12:1-2; Phil.4:8
Cor.9:27 - I beat my body and make it my slave...); II Peter 1:5-6) - My body (I
- Examples: Say no to something you really like; Say yes to something you
really don't like (my working out these days)
- Mighty man of God who failed: Samson; see Judges 13:2-5, 24;14:1-2, 5-9
(summarize); note 14:19-20 (summarize Delilah); note 16:21.

2. Flee

- Joseph as a contrast to Samson; Gen.39:6b-10; 11-12.
- Years of self-denial and suffering, but God eventually gave him a wife (& kids), an
exalted position (honor), and God's purpose was fulfilled in Joseph's life – which is what **sanctification** is all
about!!

3. Fight Daily

- II Samuel 11:1-15; 12:7b-13a
- David's one night stand (later in life), became a life long nightmare! Although the
consequences of David's sin could not be canceled, thank God his sin was (See Psalm 51:1-13, 16-17).