

OVERCOMING

Hurts, Habits and Hang-Ups That Hold Us Back

Lesson Four • 1Thessalonians 4:1-8

Overcoming Sexual Impurity

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1. The Crisis: We Live in a Culture Dominated and Decimated by Sexual IMMORALITY!

What Does the Bible Mean by "Sexual Immorality"?

Sexual immorality is any kind of sexual activity OUTSIDE the circle of God's Will (covers sins of the mind and heart, eyes and body, and includes such sins as pre-marital sex, extra-marital sex, homosexuality, and pornography).

For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; 1Thessalonians 4:3 NKJV

Why Is Sexual Immorality Wrong?

Sexual immorality DISHONORS the person and DISREGARDS God!

That each one of you know how to take a wife for himself in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like heathen who do not know God. 1Thessalonians 4:4 RSV

Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God... 1Thessalonians 4:8 ESV

2. The Call: Please God by Walking in HOLINESS!

Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more...For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. 1Thessalonians 4:1, 7 ESV

A Walk that Pleases God:

- God's will is that you ABSTAIN from sexual immorality. vs. 3

- God's will is that you exercise CONTROL over your body. vs. 4-5

- God's will is that you don't WRONG or defraud another person. vs. 6

God Is Not a Killjoy!

But God is opposed to what kills JOY!

3. The Challenge: Overcome Sexual Impurity by Knowing GOD!

That each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; 1Thessalonians 4:4-5 ESV

Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies. 1Corinthians 6:18-20 NIV

Three Things to Know About God:

- Know the PATIENCE of God. vs. 1

- Know the PUNISHMENT of God. vs. 6

- Know the POWER of God. vs. 8

The Pathway Back to Purity for the Sexually Impure:

God will make you PURE when you turn from your sin and accept His forgiveness through Jesus Christ!

"Come now, and let us reason together," says the Lord, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool. Isaiah 1:18 NIV

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1John 1:9 NIV