

IMITATORS & EXAMPLES

A Series in 1 Thessalonians



Scripture Reading:

1 THESSALONIANS

4:1 – 8



**HEY GIRL, IS YOUR NAME
GOOGLE?**

**'CAUSE YOU'VE GOT EVERYTHING
I'M SEARCHING FOR**

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**WHY IS GOD SO OBSESSED
ABOUT SEXUAL
MORALITY?**

1 THESSALONIANS 4:3 – 5

It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own [vessel] in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; ...

1 THESSALONIANS 4:6 – 7

...and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.

1. GOD DEFINES HOLINESS AS PURITY

1 Thessalonians 4:3 – 7 NIBO

It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own [vessel] in a way that is holy and honorable...For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.

1. GOD DEFINES HOLINESS AS PURITY

Sanctification is the pursuit of "consecrated purity."

Consecrated purity:

"Holy and honorable" (1 Thess. 4:4), recognizing the sacredness of something—its invaluable meaning, significance, and untouchability.

1. GOD DEFINES HOLINESS AS PURITY

Purity is seen as a question of consecration to God.

God is as obsessed with purity as you are with sex.

1. GOD DEFINES HOLINESS AS PURITY

- Give yourself wholly to God.
- Allow no admixture of rivals—no love can be a competitor. All loves must either be subsumed in compatibility with our love of God, or utterly forsaken as his rival.

(Ps. 24:1-4, 51:10, 73:1, 13; Prov. 22:11, Matt. 5:8, 1 Tim. 1:5, 2 Tim. 2:22)

1. GOD DEFINES HOLINESS AS PURITY

Purity of heart will lead us to sexual purity, but it will also lead us to a deeper sanctification.

If you seek only to avoid sexual immorality, you will often fail.

You have to **seek a pure heart.**

2. GOD DEFINES HOLINESS AS SELF-MASTERY

1 Thessalonians 4:3 – 5

It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own [vessel] in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God..."

2. GOD DEFINES HOLINESS AS SELF-MASTERY

- That we come to control our passions, rather than them controlling us.
- True of ALL PASSIONS: lust, pride, wrath/anger, laziness/sloth, envy/jealousy/covetousness, greed, gluttony, etc.

2. GOD DEFINES HOLINESS AS SELF-MASTERY

We must ordain and then shape our spiritual emotions in accord with the truth and the will of God.

Otherwise we cannot love God or others.

PHILIPPIANS 3:19

Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things.

2. GOD DEFINES HOLINESS AS SELF-MASTERY

Positive: To master our passions makes us free to love the God, enjoy and feel peace in ourselves, and truly love others.

3. GOD DEFINES HOLINESS AS ACTING IN JUSTICE

1 Thessalonians 4:6

and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother (trespass) or take advantage (exploit) of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you.

3. GOD DEFINES HOLINESS AS ACTING IN JUSTICE

Sexual immorality in all forms is unloving because it is a form of injustice.

It always trespasses against and exploits someone.

The circle is wider than you think – “his brother.”

3. GOD DEFINES HOLINESS AS ACTING IN JUSTICE

Sexuality is ubiquitous and consequential—therefore it is not inconsequential just because we treat it that way.

3. GOD DEFINES HOLINESS AS ACTING IN JUSTICE

This is likely why God demands the comprehensive relational act be done only in the comprehensive relationship of marriage.

GOD DEMANDS WE BE SANCTIFIED

Sanctification must come by faith in the truth and from the Spirit.

ROMANS 12:1

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.

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