

We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. Because our gospel came to you not simply with words but with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. We were not looking for praise from

people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. Instead, we were like young children among you, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom

and strengthen that you will and holy in the presence of our God when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones. It is God's will that you should avoid sexual immorality. And to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and your hands, you. Brothers do not want

ry. May he your hears so be blameless like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still

alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will

be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words. Pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. For God did not appoint us

*Objectives: We want to learn how to live a life that is pleasing to God. We want to learn what it means to be holy in our sex lives, why we would want to be holy and how we can be holy in this area.*

**Launch:**

Why is the subject of sexuality such a hot topic for us? Why do you think Christians often do not talk about the subject?

**Explore:**

Read 1 Thess. 3:11-4:8

- What is the Big Idea that Paul is trying to communicate in this passage? (SG) *(pleasing God in holiness)*
- Take a closer look at verses 1 and 2, listing all that you can observe from this verse. *(finally- indicates moving to last section; then- links to previous section; brothers and sisters- we are all in this together; ask and urge- strong directive words; in the Lord Jesus- where His authority comes from, why he is able to be so bold; pleasing God from their lives is the goal; they have already received instruction on this; he encourages them but challenges to excel still more)*
- How old were these believers when Paul talked about this subject?
- Do you struggle talking about this subject with young believers? Why or why not? What keeps us from talking about this with people that are young in the Lord?
- Vs. 1&2 set up the rest of the section (3-8, 9-12, 4:13-5:11, 5:12-22)
- What indicates that this is a serious subject?
- There are many ways to please God, why does Paul emphasize this one? *(explain life in 1<sup>st</sup> century Greece. A call to be counter*

*cultural. They were bombarded with opposite message)*

- Ultimately this passage is about holiness (4:3, 4, 7, 3:11). How would you define “holy”? *(set apart for holy use. Set apart from sin, set apart TO God)*
- According to verse 3 we are to abstain from sexual immorality. According to this passage, what are some aspects of sexual immorality that we are to abstain from?
  1. *Control/possess body in holiness and honor*
  2. *Not in passionate lust like heathens*
    - o *Lust= sexual desire that dishonors its object and disregards God.*
  3. *Not wronging or transgressing brother (both person you are messing with and their future spouse).*
- How is this view of sex different than our culture’s view?
- Why are we to abstain from sexual immorality?
  1. *It is pleasing to God (1)*
  2. *Called to something greater- Doing God’s will; holiness (3,7)*
  3. *Honors people and God*
  4. *Christian love (seeing others as better than yourself, not using others for your pleasure)- 3:12*
  5. *Avoiding God’s vengeance (6)*
- How are we to abstain from sexual immorality?

1. Know God (contrast 4&5)- his patience (4:1); His power (3:11-13); His preeminence (Phil 3:7-8)
2. Holy Spirit (8)-
3. Love one another (3:12, 4:9)
4. Learn how to control your body (4)

**Apply:** (at least 25 minutes tonight!)

- When we seek to apply the scriptures to our life we need to look at three different things: the head, the heart and the hand.
- From this passage, what are we to believe? *(We are called to something greater than living to please ourselves. We are called to someone- someone who loves us, someone who sanctifies us. We are called to please Him in holiness.*
- From this passage what are some heart conditions that should be true of us? *(We should desire to please God, love our brother, and not reject God or His teaching)*
- From this passage, what are some things that we should do? (abstain/avoid/control; learn how (4); love your brother; submit to God the Holy Spirit; Know God; listen to God)
- What are the main things keeping you from being holy in this area of your life?
- What will keep you from making the changes necessary to be holy?
- What are practical steps you can take this summer?

Pray for one another.

**Homework:** Homework #6