

Discussion Questions

Date: October 11, 2026

Preacher: Josh Ratliff

Sermon Outline

Talking Points

Vessels of Holiness ***1 Thessalonians 4:1-8***

Our actions matter to God (4:1-2)

- We can make God happy by how we live.
- God communicates His desires clearly.
- **Question:** Have you considered that God is invested in your life? How does it impact you to know that we affect God through our actions?

* Have you ever considered that you could make God happy with how you live? What is your response to that idea?

* What areas of your life do you believe make God happy? What parts of your life make God unhappy?

* God tells His people what He wants from them; we are not left to guess at what pleases Him. How is that a gift?

* God desires for us to be sanctified and that includes possessing our bodies with holiness and honor. What are some ways we can treat ourselves and others with holiness and honor?

God wants us to be pure and holy (4:3-8)

- Our sins affect God, others, and ourselves.
- God will not allow the sins that harm His image-bearers to go unpunished.
- **Question:** Are you pursuing holiness in your sexuality? What steps must you take to live in integrity and honor those who bear God's image? Who is watching for your soul in this area of your life?

* Do you believe that God will empower you to keep His commands? How does your answer to that question shape how you respond to this passage?

* What has helped you pursue holiness in sexuality? Is the Lord inviting you to take a next step toward holiness in sexuality?

* What, if anything, do you need to confess? How can you support one another as you pursue holiness?

Bottom Line: Love for God and our neighbor compels us to live pure and holy lives.

* Pray that the church would pursue holiness in sexuality and that our attitudes and actions surrounding sex would be winsome to people who do not know Christ.

Understanding Scripture

1. Read the passage aloud.

- Question: How would the original audience have understood this passage?
- Question: What was God's desire for them?

2. Reread key verse(s) aloud.

- Question: What does this teach us about the human soul, desires, or behavior?
- Question: What does this teach us about the nature, desires, or behavior of God?

3. Ask if anything is difficult to understand in the passage, or simply point it out yourself.

- Back up from the confusing verse and reread the whole section slowly—highlight the author's flow of thought.
- Ask everyone, "What are some possible interpretations?" Encourage curiosity!
- If needed, provide clarification, but admit if you don't have a satisfactory explanation, and volunteer to research answers. Share your findings over text or at the next meeting.

4. Summarize the passage in 1-3 sentences to refocus the group ("Okay, so far we've seen in Amos...")

- Question: What does this say about our relationship with God and/or each other?
- Question: How do the teachings, actions, or person of Jesus shed light on this passage?

Prayer Requests

