

Evidence of a Healthy Church: Sanctification in Sexual Purity (4:1-8)

1. Paul Preached This Passage in a Society Much Like America

- A. Rome, Corinth and Thessalonica had no Christian morality, only pagan
 - 1. Gk. words in NT and Laws of OT reveal: pedophilia, transvestites, homosexuality, bestiality, sex slaves, prostitution, pimping and even sex orgies as a form of worship
 - 2. pornea and forms – prostitution and pimping; concubines in NT were sex slaves
- B. Paul preached God's Word on sexual purity to these pagan societies – **1Thess4:1-2**
 - 1. notice vs.2, by the authority of the Lord Jesus – this is Jesus' view/word on sexual purity to us!
 - 2. God's will for your life is your sanctification – holiness, set apart from sin to God, starts here

2. Paul Gives 3 Points in Our Sanctification - Regarding Sex

- A. _____ does God require of us? (vs.3)
 - 1. God requires holiness/sanctification (vs.3) ***Eph1:4... WHY? 1Pe1:15,16**
 - 2. God requires we abstain completely from sexual immorality
 - *abstain...Gk. completely stay away from in act and thought
 - 3. How does God define sexual immorality?
 - *KEY: **Heb13:4** – anything outside of biblical marriage bed – **Gen1:27,28; Gen2:24; Matt19:4,5**
 - *Eph5:3,5; 1Tim1:9-10; Rom1:18,24-32; Matt5:27-28** (even lust/thoughts)
 - 4. What would happen if everyone lived by God's standard? _____
- B. _____ can I do that? (vs.4-6a)
 - 1. KNOW that in Christ, you CAN!!! ***1Cor6:9-11; Rom6:14; Gal5:1**
 - 2. Know how to possess/gain mastery over your own body (own body vs.3 you abstain; vs.5 not...)
 - *You control your body, don't let it control you! ***Rom6:12-13; 1Cor9:27**
 - *Key: walk in the Spirit, be controlled by the Spirit – **Gal5:16; Eph5:17-18**
 - *How do I do this, live by the Spirit? ***Col3:16; Ps119:9-11; Heb10:23-25 – together!**
 - 3. “in sanctification and honor” – in holiness and respect to God, who He is and His love to you
 - *sexual thoughts lead to sexual actions – take every thought captive to obey Christ, 2Cor10
 - *don't act like unbelievers! “not in lustful passion like the Gentiles, who don't know God”
 - *don't transgress and defraud another believer
- C. _____ should I do that? (vs.6b-8)
 - 1. God's vengeance and judgment – He is the avenger in all things, we have warned you
 - *sin brings death, flee immorality – **1Cor10:6-14; Heb13:4**
 - *sin destroys – consider pain of... _____
 - 2. God's purpose for saving you is purity and holiness – salvation is inseparable from this
 - *Gal5:1; **Titus2:11-14** – *we are to be unlike the world!*
 - *you can miss all God wants to do through your life! ***1Cor9:27 – disqualified from service**
 - *God gave His Spirit to you/in you to enable you to live a godly life! (vs.8)
 - 3. He loved you anyway!!! Thessalonians and Corinthians – **1Cor6:9-11, “were”**
 - *Psalm139:13-18**