

## A STUDY OF 1 THESSALONIANS 4.1-8

*What Could Anyone Possibly Learn About Sex From The Bible?*

Dr. Larry Lamb—November 25, 2018

- The biblical view of sexual expression has always been and will always be countercultural.
- A theme that's saturated all through the Scriptures is the desire for God's people to be HOLY regardless of the culture. . . *Not better than, but different than.*
- The undertow of currents from the culture are swift and constant. The culture preaches sermons with creativity and consistency that you can have sex with whomever without consequences. But the undertow of devastation is never portrayed.

**1 THESSALONIANS 4.1,2** *Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we urge you in the name of the Lord Jesus to live in a way that pleases God, as we have taught you. You live this way already, and we encourage you to do so even more.*

<sup>2</sup> *For you remember what we taught you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.*

FOUR ACTION STEPS TO LIVING A HOLY LIFE IN A CULTURE THAT ISN'T  
(1 THESSALONIANS 4.3-8)

1. Own the reality that God's will is sexual **FIDELITY** on His terms. (v. 3)  
God's will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin.

Rejecting God's design on sex leads to pain, not intimacy,  
regret not satisfaction, and anxiety not joy.

*"Any sexual activity that deviates from the monogamous relationship  
between a husband and a wife is immoral by God's standard."*

JOHN F. MCARTHUR

2. Holiness and honor is a personal decision that carries public **CONSEQUENCES**. (vs. 4,5) *Then each of you will control his own body and live in holiness and honor<sup>5</sup> not in lustful passion like the pagans who do not know God and His ways.*

*“What can be more dishonorable than for a rational soul to be enslaved by bodily affections and brutal appetites?”* MATTHEW HENRY

3. Having the determination to guard and protect your heart will keep you from adding pain to **OTHERS**. (v.6) *Never harm or cheat a fellow believer in this matter by violating his wife, for the Lord avenges all such sins, as we have solemnly warned you before.*

**PROVERBS 4.23** *Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.*

**DATING:**

**MARRIED:**

4. **GUARDRAILS** that govern purity is not a liability but liberating. (vs. 7,8) *God has called us to live holy lives, not impure lives.*  
<sup>8</sup> *Therefore, anyone who refuses to live by these rules is not disobeying human teaching but is rejecting God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.*

- No one ever becomes so holy that they moved beyond battling desires of the flesh. (Ref Galatians 5.16,17)
- Practice habits of purity without rationalization.
- Avoid people who are easy to sin with and places where's it's easy to sin.
- Sin causes suffering and robs us of God's best.

**What's God's Will:** Moral sanity and purity done His way that equals no regrets.

Dear God, I know that I am on the wrong path. I admit that I am a sinner on the road headed away from You. I want to turn around and journey with You on the road to eternal life. I know that I cannot do that by myself. I know that You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to die for my sins. Right now, I trust in Jesus as the only One who can provide true life, the life that is found in You. I trust in Jesus as the One who did for me what I cannot do for myself. I trust in Jesus as the only One who can place me in an eternal relationship with You. In Jesus' Name. Amen.