Faith Community Church
Sex and Sanctification
(Standing firm, Part 7)

Faith Group Questions
& Discussion Guide



🙏 **Opening Prayer**: Father, sex is a complicated subject. Open our hearts to see the joy You planned, and the boundaries to both respect others and reflect You.

🧊 **Icebreaker**: Share one sentence: “One area of life where I have seen that fences or boundaries make good neighbors is _____.”

🔑 Key Points

1. The Process. The Christian life is not only about the event of salvation but the ongoing process of growing more and more in a way that pleases God.

2. Sanctification. God’s will for us is our sanctification—moving away from sexual immorality and moving toward controlling our bodies in holiness and honor.

3. Sex. Christianity celebrates sex as a good gift from God, but only within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman.

4. Respect and Reflect. Sexual purity honors and reflects God, protects and respects others, and flows from truly knowing Him rather than following the patterns of a culture that does not.

💬 Discussion Questions

1. Did you “Say it,” Sacrifice, or Share last week? Tell us about it!

2. Why does Paul begin this section by reminding the Thessalonians they are “brothers” and urging them to please God “more and more,” and how does that shape the way we approach the rest of the passage? (Romans 12:1–2, Colossians 2:6-8)

3. What does it mean that sanctification involves both a movement away from something and a movement toward something, and how does that two-part process show up in everyday Christian living? (Colossians 3:5, 12)

4. How does the biblical definition of sexual immorality (any sexual activity outside the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman) challenge both the culture around us and any personal rationalizations we might make? (Matthew 19: 4-6, Rom 1:24-28)

5. When Paul calls us to control our bodies, why is it significant that he pairs “holiness” (toward God) with “honor” (toward people) and how does that contrast with the “passion of lust”? (Romans 13:8-10, 13–14)

6. How does viewing sex as a good gift from God that belongs inside the “fireplace” of marriage (full intimacy only with full commitment) change the way we think about both purity and the beauty of the marriage relationship? James 1:17, 1 Corinthians 7:2-5

7. In what ways does our approach to sexuality reveal whether we truly know God, and how does moving closer to Him naturally lead us to greater love, honor, and care for other people? (John 17:3; 1 John 4:19-5:2)

8. What would it look like practically to stop asking “How close can I get to the line?” and start asking “How fully can I live for God?” in the area of our thoughts, desires, and relationships? (Titus 2:11–14)

9. Read Exodus 32:31 in several different versions. Discuss the difference between striving for holiness in our own strength and relying on God. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

🛠️ Practical Applications

1. Stop inching. Identify one specific area (thought life, media, relationships, or habits) where you have been asking “How close can I get?” and replace it with a concrete step that asks “How fully can I live for God?” Share the step with an accountability partner.

2. Honor someone. Take one practical action that protects or respects another person—ending a compromising situation, setting a new boundary, or offering encouragement to someone walking in purity—so that your choices bring life, not harm.

3. Celebrate God’s design. If married, intentionally invest in emotional, spiritual, and physical closeness with your spouse this week as an act of worship. If single, invest in closeness with God with a special event (go to breakfast, take a walk, just with God). (Bonus: if this is meaningful, schedule such a session with spouse or God every month.)

🙏 **Closing Prayer**: Lord Jesus, You came that we might KNOW You, be intimate with You. Help us to know how to practice intimacy, within the fireplace of marriage, and in our relationship with You. May our lives reflect how we know You and love others.