

Abstain from Sexual Immorality

1st Thessalonians 4:3-8 – Discussion Group Leader Handout

Bible Passage

1 Thessalonians 4:1–8 (NASB95) — **1** Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more. **2** For you know what commandments we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. **3** For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; **4** that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, **5** not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; **6** and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you. **7** For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification. **8** So, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.

Discussion Questions - **Suggested scripture lookups in red, include others that you can think of.**

- I. Know to abstain from sexual immorality.
 - a. Why should we abstain from sexual immorality?
 - i. It is God's command - **Ex 20:14, Rom 13:13-14, Eph 5:5-6, Col 3:5-6**
 - ii. Your body is no longer yours - **1 Cor 6:12-20**
 - iii. To increase in giving God glory - **1 Cor 6:19-20**
 - iv. Other reasons?
 - b. How can we abstain from sexual immorality, possessing our vessels in honor?
 - i. Through reading God's word
 1. **Rom 12:1-2**
 2. **Eph 4:17-24**
 3. **Psalms 119:11**
 - ii. Through Prayer – **Heb 4:16**
 - iii. Setting up safeguards - **2 Tim 2:22**
 - iv. Other ways?
- II. Know that will punish those who take sexual advantage of others
 - a. Consider the story of David and Bathsheba – **2 Sam 11 – 12**
 - b. Other biblical examples?
- III. Know that we cannot reject God's commands on sexuality
 - a. Has a Christian who keeps falling into sexual sin, such as pornography, fully rejected the Lord? Why or why not?

Prayer Requests

- That Anchor Bible Church would take seriously God's multiple commands for sexual purity, and diligently seek for God through His word and prayer to empower our obedience to these commands.
- Pray for protection and strength for our church leadership, to be examples of obedience to Anchor Bible Church.
- That Anchor Bible Church parents be strong examples of wisdom and obedience to their children concerning what we entertain ourselves with.
- That Anchor Bible Church shines as an example of a church body that obeys God in all things sexual.