

## 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

### Holy Vessels

Finally then, brethren, { true Pastor – 2 whole chapters} we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, {Keep growing} just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God; 2 for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, 5 not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; 6 that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. 7 For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. 8 Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

Paul has been telling the believers in every chapter of this letter – **THE LORD IS COMING!**

A) So walk in a manner that Pleases God! – Be ready!

B) **V.3 This is the will of God** – that should get your attention!

C) What is the will of God for my life is the one question that I have received the most as a Pastor

1) Interesting that the Lord – tells us in several places

D) Revealed will of God for us!  
**God's REVEALED WILL!**

- To be saved: 1 Timothy 2:4
- Live transformed lives: Romans 12:1-2
- Be a good witness: 1 Peter 2:13-15
- You are filled with the Spirit: Ephesians 5:17-18
- To be thankful: 1 Thessalonians 5:18

**BIG ONE: This is the will of God Your Sanctification – YOUR HOLINESS!**

A) Recall from our study last time: - 2:13 Paul prayed that the Lord would establish their hearts in Holiness

B) **Sanctification** = To be set apart or dedicated to God!

1) It is both A standing and a process.

C) Our standing: bought with a precious price!

1) God held nothing back in rescuing you and I.

**If redemption could have been paid with rubies or gold and silver or real-estate**

A) God has an ENDLESS SUPPLY of those things.

B) He paid with what He only had one of – HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON

1) **SINLESS SACRIFICE** – HIS BLOOD – REDEEMS US!

C) You have been bought with a price – You belong to God! – **POSITIONAL**

**SANCTIFICATION**

**PRACTICAL SANCTIFICATION** – The way you live – Set apart in lifestyle!

A) Paul zero's in here on the subject of sexual immorality. ....**abstain from sexual immorality;**

B) **Sexual immorality** Greek word *Porneia* – we get our English word pornography from it.

C) Speaks of any type of sexual activity outside of marriage.

1) Premarital - Extra marital – Homosexual – all included in that word – **PORNEIA**

**Thessalonica was a very immoral sex Crazy society - Everything goes mentality**

A) Temples employed prostitutes that was part of the worship – experience

B) Husband announced he was heading to church – you knew what he was probably doing.

C) Many new converts had mistresses for sexual preferences

1) Even sex with boys 12-20 was not frowned upon.

America has become a sex crazed society – with an everything goes mentality.

A) Pornography is a Huge problem.

B) Casual hookups – become the norm – especially amongst Gen X – college campuses

C) Homosexuality is flaunted in every movie and TV program.

This is the will of God....you abstain from sexual immorality!

A) Abstain = refrain from

B) Abstain from anything outside of Marriage!

1) If you are having sex today in any form with someone you are not married to – it's SIN

C) **Don't like that – don't get mad at me** – I am just telling you – God's word says!

D) You can go out into the parking lot and shake your fist at God!

1) Everyone keep your distance from that person – the lightning bolt could be DEADLY!

E) YOU DON'T LIKE THAT – Not rejecting me – you are rejecting God!

Note the simplicity of Paul's command:

A) **Abstain**: - simple – not 12 steps – not some program

B) Abstain – refrain from - Abstain – simple command – not 12 steps.....

**that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,**

2 Timothy 2:22 **“Flee also youthful lusts;”**

**Flee = Fugo - Fool go!**

A) Run from – but also run to something else

**“Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”**

2 Timothy 2:22

B) **You run from sexual temptation by pursuing something else:** Faith – love – peace – with other like minded people!

C) This is the biggest mistake that some people make – they try to run from lust –

1) but they don't run anywhere.

D) Flee lust – by pursuing RIGHTEOUSNESS

1) Tempted – pick up your Bible start reading – seeking the Lord

E) Hard to think about that when seeking Jesus.

Young person – tempted – instead of hanging out someplace alone – go sit in a coffee shop – talk about your Devo's – SPOONS Restaurant – **Can man take fire ...burned?**

A) Men – instead of sitting around on Computers Get in a men's group – ask to be accountable

B) In other words – take necessary steps to walk in a manner – pleases God!

1) Something Literally thrown in Face – RUN - Joe

**Reasons to Abstain:**

A) Sexual sin reflects secular values:

**3 ... that you should abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, 5 not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God;**

B) Those who live like animals – just giving into their sexual URGES – reason – don't know God.

1) Don't understand – IMAGEO DEI – His IMAGE

C) Man uniquely made with a moral compass – made to know God.

1) HIGHER STANDARD – GREATER GOAL

Our world doesn't understand that - Sexual union is more than a physical union – spiritual – one soul

A) Not just two bodies coming together – two souls – two spirits

B) Christian – Joining Christ to that person

**<sup>15</sup>Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make *them* members of a harlot? Certainly not!**

**<sup>16</sup>Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body *with her*? For “*the two*,” He says, “*shall become one flesh.*” <sup>17</sup>But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit *with Him*.**

C)Not just a physical thing – spiritual

<sup>18</sup>Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. {HEAVY – hurting yourself

<sup>19</sup>Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

<sup>20</sup>For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

D)God's commandments concerning sex are not for the purpose of robbing people of joy,

1)but rather of protecting them that they might not lose their joy.

God designed the sexual relationship – He knows how it works!

A) World says – the best Sex – forbidden sex

B) **Wrong!** Best sex is between man and woman – love respect honor – committed .... Death do...part

C)Created marriage/Sex is to be enjoyed in Marriage

1)Marriage is between one man and one woman  
Rephrase – Genetic male – Genetic female

D) We need to protect MARRIAGE – It is the only thing we have left from the fall. –

1)Picture of Christ relationship with the Church.  
DON'T MESS WITH THAT!

E)SUPREME Court Redefine – No way!

Don't misunderstand Not picking on gay people – Paul uses of Sexual immorality- **broad stroke**

A)All sexual behavior that is outside of marriage

B)Premarital – Extra marital – Homosexual – Pornography – JUST AS GUILTY.

C)Don't buy into the mindset of the world that makes light of sexual immorality

1)**And Doesn't understand the sanctity of marriage**

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” Romans 12:2

**Reasons to Abstain:**

A)Sexual sin reflects secular values – As God's people we are called to Holiness – set apart.

B)#2 Sexual sin defrauds people. V.6a

6 that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified.

C)Sometimes people in the world will use the crude phrase – concerning sex – **I got a piece of Her/Him**

D)Crude- but true – Giving away a piece of yourself

Proverbs 6:26 By means of a Seductress a man is reduced to a crust of bread; and an adulteress will prey upon his precious life.

A)SOME people give away so much of themselves there is nothing left – SHELL

Proverbs 6:32 Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; he who does so destroys his own soul.

B)SEX OUTSIDE OF MARRIAGE IS destructive 1)Giving away a part of yourself

C)In marriage – ONENESS – ACTUALLY adding to each other.

Sexual immorality doesn't just defraud those involved

A)Rips off or Defrauds – Kids – future kids – future spouse

B)Defrauds parents {Someone's daughter/ Son

C)In the end sexual sin reduces people to objects to be used rather than people to be valued.

D)Can man take fire to bosom – and not get burned ?

Rhetorical – don't start the fire

Reason #3 AbstainV.8 When we commit sexual Sin – we are resisting and rejecting the Holy Spirit.

**8 Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.**

A) Sexual sin involves willful disobedience – rebellion – doesn't just happen – clothes don't just fall off - going for it -

B) Always a progression – **HOLY SPIRIT IS THE ALARM** –

1) Stop – don't go there – don't do that – don't look at that! – RUN!!!!!!!!!!

C) ALARM - turn off – unplug/ THROW across the room -

**If you are a Christian the Holy Spirit IS INSIDE of You!**

A) Warning – HE LOVES YOU THAT MUCH

B) Doesn't matter that He or she is not putting on the breaks – the Holy Spirit says – Stop/ NO/ GO

**C) To engage in that behavior is to ignore his voice**

1) Ignore him – you are quenching Him

D) Cutting yourself off from the flow of His power – the sense of His presence in your life {**Dam of a river – get parched dry – powerless – hard**

E) Nothing worse – than a Christian who is no longer operating under the influence of the Holy Spirit – Flesh is the result

**Jesus is COMING BACK – BE READY – Walk that pleases God – especially area of Sexual Purity!**

- ❖ Sexual sin reflects secular values V.5- **Called to be Different** –
- ❖ Sexual sin – defrauds others – **we are called to Love**
- ❖ Sexual sin – Resist the Holy Spirit – **Called to obey – walk in the Power of the Spirit.**

**Now Paul is going to contrast that behavior – defrauding others - with Behavior that pleases God**

A) A walk that pleases God – focus on 3 things

- ❖ **Love others genuinely (4:9-10)**

**9 But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; <sup>10</sup> and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more;**

C) Don't settle- Always growing – never arrive

1) Keep growing – looking for ways to increase in our love!

D) Holy Spirit in us – Love of God poured into us by the Holy Spirit

1) Most like God when we are LOVING!

❖ **Do your work diligently (4:11)**

**<sup>11</sup> that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, {not a gossip or busy body and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you,**

A) WED – God's command Adam and Eve

B) Be Fruitful – take care of what I have placed in your hands. -

**Work diligently.**

A) Wisely invest the talents that He “has given you. Do your job with a quiet and restful spirit.

B) Use your hands to reflect a deeper motivation for your work than that of merely earning a paycheck.

C) Don't spend your time worrying about what everyone else is doing.

1) Focus instead on pleasing the Father in the exact place where He has placed YOU

**A walk that pleases God**

- Love others genuinely (4:9-10)
- Do your work diligently (4:11)
- Live your life purposefully (4:12)

**<sup>12</sup> that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and *that* you may lack nothing.**

**REMEMBER – WE ARE HERE** – Shine as lights in a dark world –

People need Jesus – Lost in Sin

People He loved – died for – Wants to redeem