

# Piety vs Purity

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

## Are you rejecting the influence of the Holy Spirit in your life?

- We would not dare do so!
- There were some in Thessalonica who were doing that (1 Thessalonians 4:8).
- They did not take Paul's words seriously as if from God.
- That's the seriousness of the situation Paul wrote about.

## 3 Chapters led to this point.

- 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13
- Blameless in holiness

"Finally" = here is the application. Here's how to achieve this blamelessness in holiness. It turns out that their society was no so different from ours.

In 1 Thessalonians 3:1-8, Paul got into specifics about this holiness, and he dealt with something that is a common problem in our culture too. It has infiltrated the church and we must learn how to deal with the problem in a godly manner.

# Piety vs Purity

## Progression of the command for purity

1. Abstain from sexual immorality
  - 1 Thessalonians 4:3
  - Dealing with single people
2. Know how to possess your own vessel--related to people planning to be married (possibly)
  - 1 Thessalonians 4:4-5
  - Know how to control yourself, OR
  - Know how to acquire a wife
3. Do not take advantage or defraud a brother regarding sexuality.
  - 1 Thessalonians 4:6
  - Related to people who were married. Probably referred to dowries, social stipulations for marriages, adultery, and other ways of defrauding others.
  - Sexual immorality is possible for you too!
    - Through the evils of divorce, according to Matthew 19:1-9.
    - Through adultery in two forms (both of the heart and the body)

## Practical Application of Purity

1. Abstain: To hold oneself off
  - Not depending on another to hold you back.

- If you have to fight off your boyfriend, you need a new one who is going to respect you and himself!
  - Present tense--an ongoing effort.
  - The goal is to be holy, that is, untouched by sin. Avoiding the gray areas is part of that!
2. 1 Corinthians 6:18-20
    - Sex before marriage is sin!
    - Putting yourself in situations where that is likely to happen is unwise at best!
      - "Oh, we are just going to live together. Nothing will happen!"
      - "Oh we are just going to sit and kiss a while in a parked car. What could possibly go wrong?"
      - "We are just going to send pictures of ourselves on our phones. It's harmless!"
    - Even married people fall into times of stupidity.
      - Don't put yourself in compromising situations!
      - You are not infallible.
  3. It is possible to be piously avoiding these and still be impure!
    - James 1:14-16
    - Matthew 15:17-19
    - Seeing how close you can get without sinning is not purity.
    - There is such a thing as a technical virgin. I'll not explain, but it is worth considering on your own.
  4. Be aware of the many pressures and temptations!
    - Satan wants to convince you that God will not provide for your needs.
    - Satan wants to convince you that you must try to help God or take shortcuts instead of waiting until marriage.
    - Your boyfriend or girlfriend may try to convince you it will help your relationship or keep the love there.
    - These are all lies!
  5. Consider the consequences
    - To your body
    - To your relationship
    - To your conscience
    - To your relationship with God!
  6. Seek purity, not excuses