

1 THESSALONIANS

**STANDING FIRM & PRESSING ON,
UNITED TO JESUS.**

Sexual Purity Please God

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

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Sexual purity pleases God, and believers in Jesus Christ are called to grow in pleasing God (1 Thessalonians 4:1-2). Therefore, we are called to abstain from sexual immorality.

1. Holiness is part of God's will for His people; it pleases Him.

The Greek word *hagiasmos* (holiness/sanctification) carries the idea of separation for a purpose.

2. Holiness includes abstaining from sexual immorality.

The Greek word *porneia* (sexual immorality) broadly refers to all illicit sexual activity.

3. Pursuing holiness by abstaining from sexual immorality is one way we love other people.

4. Pursuing holiness by abstaining from sexual immorality is one way we reflect the character of God.

5. We abstain from sexual immorality by controlling our bodies and not yielding to lustful passions.

...that each of you KNOW how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not KNOW God.

Questions to Consider

1. Have you experienced pain or consequences as a result of yours or someone else's sexual immorality?
2. What hope can we draw from the simple fact that Paul was teaching a new way forward in dealing with immorality to new believers who were living in a culture that was rife with sexual immorality?
3. How would you describe holiness, and what are some ways it should be evident in the lives of Christians?
4. Growing in brotherly love helps us to grow in holiness (3:11-13). In what way does that connection seem to be reversed in 4:6, i.e. what effect might a lack of holiness in sexual purity have on how we are loving other people?
5. What does Paul mean when he says that sexual impurity "disregards not man but God"? Read Psalm 51:1-4. Have you found yourself more concerned about how people might react to your sin than you are about God?
6. What are some truths that Christians should know and meditate on in order to deal with temptations toward sexual immorality?