

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 – Sexual Purity.

Before the fall – before sin – sex was part of the created order. It was good – VERY GOOD – and was engaged in freely, without inhibition of any kind by the man and the woman.

God created sex for mainly two reasons;

i. Reproduction

Genesis 1:22 - *And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.”*

ii. Pleasure

1 Corinthians 7:3 - *“Let the husband fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband.”*

After the fall, Satan’s strategy is often to do all he can to *encourage* sex outside of marriage and to *discourage* sex in marriage; *fornication, adultery, prostitution, incest, pedophilia, masturbation, homosexuality/lesbianism, bestiality, rape, pornography and many other forms.*

God’s will was such that we discover sex in the Bible and at home; but because sin entering the world, and our cultural taboos of not talking about sex openly, we grew up to discover sex from school, media (TV, magazines, internet), peers or family members, strangers...all wrong sources.

They were to **abound more and more**: Christian maturity is never finished on this side of eternity. No matter how far a Christian has come in love and holiness, he or she can still **abound more and more**.

“Paul gave these commands to a first-century Roman culture that was marked by sexual immorality. At this time in the Roman Empire, chastity and sexual purity were almost unknown virtues.”

It is **the will of God that we are set apart for him**; If our sexual behavior is no different than **the Gentiles who do not know God**, then we are not sanctified – set apart – in the way God wants us to be.

Five steps towards sexual purity;

i. Flee

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 - Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. 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? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

ii. Be faithful

Hebrews 13:4 - Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

iii. Guard your heart and mind.

Proverbs 23:26-28 - My son, give me your heart, And let your eyes observe my ways. For a harlot is a deep pit, And a seductress is a narrow well.

Song of Songs 8:4 - I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, Do not stir up nor awaken love Until it pleases.

iv. Godly company.

1 Corinthians 15:33 - Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits." Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.

v. Turn away (if you're already sinned).

John 8:11 - She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."

vi. There's forgiveness and healing for sinners and victims of sexual sin.

Romans 8:1 - There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.