

Living in Holiness

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

Introduction: The Thessalonians turned the world upside down (Acts 17:6). One of the ways this happened is they followed God's Laws concerning sexual purity. The world consumed in sex.

I. God Demands Holiness, v. 3

The ancient world of Thessalonica:

Demosthenes: mistresses are for pleasure, concubines are for daily needs and wives are to produce children and keep the house

Cicero: Don't forbid pleasures, let desire and pleasure triumph over reason.

Plutarch said wives should not be angry at husbands taking on different partners, better to close your eyes and have good relations with your husband.

1 Peter 1:15

One way this is done is by keeping from sexual immorality. This is radically different than the Greco-Roman world.

I. We must control ourselves, 4:4-5 God Demands Holiness

A. Control Your Vessel (Body) With Honor

Control your own body in holiness and honor.

It is possible to do (your sanctification)

People say I have these desires, rights

Sexual immorality refers to adultery, premarital and extra marital relations, homosexuality, and all perversions beyond one husband and one wife for life.

Literally control your own vessel

War against pornography

War against what the world approves

Romans 13:13-14

II. Why Holiness is So Important, 4:6-8

A. Sexual Immorality Is Taking Advantage of Another Person, 4:6

1. Purity is a gift to your spouse

2. Sex is God's gift to mankind, Hebrews 13:4

3. Our culture uses sex to take advantage of others

Adelphoi: brother

Harvey Wienstein, Attracts people to movies, slave trafficking

Hurts Women, children, its about taking and not giving

III. God Will Judge Sexual Immorality, 4:6

1. God does care, he will judge

God doesn't hate anyone, but judged by actions

2. We are called to be different than the world

Controlled, Happy, Focused

C. God has called us to holiness, 4:7

1. You have a God given purpose: purity of mind, heart, body

2. You were bought with a price

Jesus died for you. Bought with his blood.

D. Sexual Immorality disregards God, 4:8

1. Its not puritan, cultural norms, traditions, purity culture
It is the word of God

2. Will you follow God or your own lusts

Conclusion: We are to remain holy to the Lord.