

what to do
WHILE WE
WAIT

Part 5 – God Centered Purity
1 Thessalonians 3:13; 4:1-8

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- I. WHY DOES SEXUAL PURITY MATTER IN THE SUBJECT OF THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST?
- A. *1 John 2:28-29 And now, dear children, continue in Christ, so that when Christ appears we may be confident and **unashamed** before Him at his coming. ²⁹ If you know that Jesus is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of Him. (NIV)*
 - B. *1 Thessalonians 3:13 May God strengthen your hearts so that you will be **blameless** and **holy** in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.*
 - C. Part of us getting and staying ready for Christ's return is by living a life of **moral** purity.
 - D. *1 Thessalonians 4:1-3 As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. ² For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. ³ It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should **avoid sexual immorality**;*
 - E. The phrase "sexual immorality" in 1 Thessalonians 4:3 is the word **pornea** which means any kind of sexual conduct outside of a heterosexual marriage. That would include premarital sex, same sex relationships which are called homosexuality, cohabitation which is living with someone in a sexual

relationship before you're married, and extramarital relationships meaning adultery.

II. THERE ARE FOUR KEY STATEMENTS IN THIS PASSAGE TO CONSIDER IN YOUR MORAL LIFE.

A. Loving God means you want to **please** Him. (1 Thessalonians 4:1)

*1 Thessalonians 4:1 As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to **please** God, as in fact you are living.*

B. Choose to obey God in order to live ultimately your **best** life. (1 Thessalonians 4:3)

1. *1 Thessalonians 4:3 It is God's will that you should be **sanctified**: that you should avoid sexual immorality;*

2. The word "sanctification" means the positive change obeying God brings to accomplish the maximum life you could experience.

3. 8 Reasons Why Living With a Boyfriend Won't Lead To Marriage (Debra Macleod) <http://www.yourtango.com/experts/debra-macleod/frustrated-he-wont-marry-you-dont-shack#.VK7FQyvF98F>

4. *"Many studies have found that premarital cohabitation is associated with **increased** risk of divorce, a lower quality of marriage, poorer marital communication, and higher levels of domestic violence." (Psychology Today, Psychologist Dr. Aaron Ben Zeev)*

5. God will never lead in the wrong direction. He is not a killjoy. If you follow Him, He will always lead you to live ultimately your **best** life.

C. Sexual sins **hurt** people and will result in God's discipline. (1 Thessalonians 4:6)

1 Thessalonians 4:6 ...in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you.

D. God has called you out to be "more" and has given to you His Holy Spirit to empower you. Don't **reject** God. (1 Thessalonians 4:7-8)

*1 Thessalonians 4:7-8 For God did not **call** us to be impure, but to live a holy life. ⁸ Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but **God**, who gives you his Holy Spirit. (NIV)*

III. **KNOW** YOURSELF.

*1 Thessalonians 4:3 It is God's will...that each of you should **learn** to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, (NIV)*

Action Steps I Will Take this Week ...

- ° Out of love for God, I choose to please Him with my moral behavior.
- ° Because I trust God’s leadership, I choose to obey Him in order to ultimately live my best life.
- ° I will come to know myself better – my weaknesses and what tempts me – to avoid compromising situations.
- ° I want to receive an email about events and resources to protect the sexual purity of my family from the dangers of technology.

CDs and DVDs of today’s sermon or previous sermons are available for purchase after the service at our Water’s Edge Resource Center.

Notes:
