

Theme: When building a relationship with a marriage partner, the Scripture calls for absolute sexual purity – in action and desire.

I. Intro – Biblical Principles

- A. Biblical principles can be different than culture
- B. Yet many would generally agree with things so far
 - 1. Recognize different faiths cause big problems
 - 2. Mentally acknowledge character over beauty
- C. This area is of huge controversy today - physical

II. Paul's Instructions to Thessalonians

- A. He had already taught this – basic teaching
 - 1. v1 - We *instructed* you - παρελάβετε – tradition!
 - 2. v2 – instructions we *gave* you – past tense
 - 3. v6 – as we have already told you & warned you
- B. Basic Christian living – sexual purity
 - 1. Sanctification – no πορνείας - sexual immorality
 - 2. Key parts to sexual purity
 - a. Avoid πορνείας – prostitute; any unlawful sex (v3)
 - b. Control own body - σκεῦος κτᾶσθαι – possess his vessel (v4)
 - c. Not in passionate lust like heathen (v5)

- d. Do not cross over or defraud – ὑπερβαίνειν καὶ πλεονεκτεῖν
 - i. Must not arouse sexual desires in other
 - ii. I am responsible if I do!
- C. This is not optional – God's command (v1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8)
 - 1. v1 - pleasing God; urge you in Lord Jesus
 - 2. v2 – authority of Lord Jesus
 - 3. v3 – It is God's will
 - 4. v6 – Lord will punish for such sins
 - 5. v7 – God's call
 - 6. v8 – Not men, but God; Holy (emphasis) Spirit

III. Applying This Today

- A. An initial word of restoration and forgiveness
- B. This will be difficult in our culture
 - 1. Article about culture – by sex writer!
 - 2. We live in a sex soaked culture
- C. However this principle still applies!
 - 1. It was NOT part of their culture either! (quotes)
 - 2. We can not simply follow culture!

Biblical Principles for Selecting A Marriage Partner (Part 3)

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

November 27, 2005

I Have Decided - A cappella

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

D. We must follow all of this – not just no intercourse

1. We must avoid sex outside of marriage
2. We must also avoid spirit of lust
3. We must avoid arousing lust in others

E. Why God requires this

1. Physical desire will overwhelm other issues
2. Sex lies at the heart of the one-flesh union of marriage
3. Sex impacts us – not ‘like racquetball’ (Friends)
4. All surveys – ruins sex later in marriage

F. How this impacts courtship - & life! (1 Cor 6:18; Pr 5:3-8)

1. Courtship should not be physical
 - a. Do not go right up to the line – we did not hold hands!
 - b. Do not get in compromising situations – public
 - c. Recognize power of sex drive and sin!
2. Do not stir up unrighteous desires in others
 - a. Women – watch your clothing; don’t start him
 - b. Men – no pressure; no smooth words

¹ Finally, brothers, 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; ⁴ that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, ⁵ not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; ⁶ and that 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. ⁷ 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.

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

That specific day was not atypical. My family has been treated to X-rated movies on the DVD screens of cars in the lanes next to us. The Howard Stern radio show has boomed out of what seemed like nuclear-powered car stereo speakers when we were attempting to enjoy a morning in a riverside park. Now as I watched her gazing out at Larry Flynt's smut emporium, I realized the degree to which we have failed our children....

But we also have left unfulfilled our function as guardians of their cultural environment. The boundaries of their world have been repeatedly breached, many times by people interested in making money and dismissive of all other considerations. All too often, our children are exposed to the loud, frenzied, garish spectacle of adult sexuality. They get their faces rubbed in it. So within the course of one hour of one very ordinary day, I had been treated to a vision of twin seven-year-old fanny slappers, a sex professional taking up neighborhood residence, and groupies begging for oral sex. I didn't like it. It made me mad. What had happened to my family that day was that we had been "culture-whipped," a term that measures the gulf between the expectations of the viewer (or listener) and the content of the media. When you whip your head around, asking "What was that?" not believing your eyes and ears, you've been culture-whipped.

In today's media climate, whether we want it or not, we are inundated, saturated, beaten over the head with sex. Television, our national public commons, has an ever-mounting percentage of explicit sexual content on cable, shading down to the mere leering double entendre and snickering innuendo of broadcast sitcoms. It's difficult to find a program that doesn't reference sex. It's egregious, it's out of control, it's too much. Media, advertising art, and entertainment constantly shove images at me that I am just not interested in seeing. - Gil Reavill *Smut: A Sex Industry Insider (and Concerned Father) Says Enough Is Enough*

"We keep mistresses for pleasure, concubines for day-to-day bodily needs, but we have wives to produce legitimate children and serve as trustworthy guardians of our homes." Demosthenes, *Against Neaera*

"Chastity is simply a proof of ugliness" (Seneca, *On Benefits* 3.16.1-3).

18 Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.

1 Corinthians 6:18

For the lips of an adulteress drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil; 4 but in the end she is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword. 5 Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave. 6 She gives no thought to the way of life; her paths are crooked, but she knows it not. 7 Now then, my sons, listen to me; do not turn aside from what I say. 8 Keep to a path far from her, do not go near the door of her house...

Proverbs 5:3-8