

February 22, 2026
I Thessalonians 4:1-8
Press On

Principles And Practical Application

Some see the Christian life as a set of rules to be obeyed, or a list of prohibitions to avoid. Paul regarded the Christian life as the outworking of a desire to please God. "Doctrine without ethics is hypocrisy; ethics without doctrine lacks firm foundation." *Michael Martin*

In Greek religion prostitution was considered a priestly prerogative, and extramarital sex was sometimes an act of worship. For Christians, God's will is clear, to be holy in actions and sexually pure are God's will for believers.

Parents who sit down and talk with their kids openly and honestly about sex may find it a bit uncomfortable. Christian parents have the responsibility of instructing their children to think about sex in a healthy and holy way, according to God's standards. Teach them that sex, the way God intended, is a beautiful thing between a man and a woman in the bonds of the marriage covenant. Please do not leave it up to them to learn about sex in the streets, on TV, online, or worst of all at school. Press on parents.

To maintain a clean walk requires maintaining a personal relationship with God that is renewed every morning by spending time with Him.

Enablement to resist sexual temptation comes from God the Holy Spirit who lives within all believers. A wholesome marriage is the best antidote for sexual immorality.

I Corinthians 6:18 tells us to *flee* all immorality. A good run is better than a bad stand every time. Don't carry God into an immoral affair. See, **Romans 13:13-14**.

Application:

Today people who are pagans have a seared conscience, they place no restrictions nor bounds on anything they desire to do. God says otherwise, see Genesis 2:24; straight forward, simple, no room for even the thought of grey areas. In Thessalonica in that day there were even less restrictions on erotic behavior than today if you can imagine that! This caused strong challenges for the church. Sexual sin is a powerful master. Discipline the body so as to honor the Lord. A pure and holy life set apart to God results in honor. The body is a temple of the Holy Spirit. Honor is the result of separation from sin.