

G O D & S E X



Sex, Etc.

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

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1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

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. For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. Therefore, anyone who rejects this

instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 4:1

As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God...

Why is it important to have a philosophy [of life]? Because without one, there is a danger that you will mislive — that despite all your activity, despite all the pleasant diversions you might have enjoyed while alive, you will end up living a bad life. There is, in other words, a danger that when you are on your deathbed, you will look back and realize that you wasted your one chance at living. Instead of spending your life pursuing something genuinely valuable, you squandered it because you allowed yourself to be distracted by the various baubles life has to offer.

1 Thessalonians 4:1-2

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. For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 4:8

Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God.

- "Flee sexual immorality" (1 Corinthians 6:18)
- "Avoid sexual immorality" (1 Thessalonians 4:3)
- "There must not even be a hint of sexual immorality"
(Ephesians 5:3)

"Sexuality lies at the center of the spiritual life. A healthy sexuality is the single most powerful vehicle there is to lead us to selflessness and joy, just as unhealthy sexuality helps constellate selfishness and unhappiness and does nothing else. We will be happy in this life, depending upon whether or not we have a healthy sexuality."

- Ronald Rolheiser, *The Holy Longing*

1 Thessalonians 4:3-6

It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that *each of you should learn to control your own body* in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before.

"Sexuality is not simply about finding a lover or even finding a friend. It is about overcoming separateness by giving life and blessing it.

Thus, in its maturity, sexuality is about giving oneself over to community, friendship, family, service, creativity, humor, delight, and martyrdom so that, with God, we can help bring life into the world.”

- Ronald Rolheiser, *The Holy Longing*

1 Thessalonians 4:3-6

It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; and that in this matter *no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister*. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before.