

Happiness vs. Holiness
"The Sanctification of Our Bodies"
1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

"⁷ For they sow the wind And they reap the whirlwind." (Hos. 8:7a)

I. Paul's E_____ for the Sanctification of Our Bodies (v. 1-2)

- a. Paul exhorts the church to not be conformed to the world, but instead to **excel still more** at being sanctified, consecrated, set apart for God's service; i.e. transformed by the renewing of our minds (cf. Rom. 12:1-2)
- b. Three Details of Context:
 - i. Paul is writing to Believers.
 - ii. Paul is writing about Sexual Morality & Immorality
 - iii. Paul is writing to people from a Morally Corrupt Culture
 1. "Concern with displaying affluence instead of building wealth;
 2. Art becomes freakish and sensationalistic instead of creative and original;
 3. Widening disparity between very rich and very poor;
 4. Increased demand to live off the state. And Obsession with sex and perversions of sex;" (*The History and Fall of the Roman Empire*; Edward Gibbon)

II. God's W_____ for the Sanctification of Our Bodies (v. 3)

- a. **abstain from sexual immorality!!!**
- b. God made mankind with only two binary sexes or genders: **male and female** (Gen. 1:27)
- c. God gave sex and made it pleasurable as a gift: **be fruitful and multiply** (cf. Gen. 1:28)
 - i. Since God gave sex to us, He has full authority over how we should experience it.
- d. God bound Adam & Eve together in the **one flesh** union of marriage: and they **were not ashamed** (cf. Gen. 2:18-25)

- e. God's clear and undeniable will is that sex only occur between one biological man and one biological woman who are joined together in marriage.
- f. Everything else is **sexual immorality = porneia (πορνεία)** = "to engage in illicit sex, to commit fornication, sexual immorality...prostitution" (Matt. 5:32; 15:19; 19:9; Mark 7:21; John 8:41; Acts 15:20, 29; 21:25; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:13, 18; 7:2; 2 Cor. 12:21; Gal. 5:19; Eph. 5:3; Col. 3:5; 1 Thess. 4:3; Rev. 2:21; 9:21; 14:8; 17:2, 4; 18:3; 19:2)
- g. **it is good for a man not to touch a woman = haptō (ἅπτω)** = "to cause the process of burning to begin—to ignite, to kindle, to set ablaze, to start a fire," "to hold on to, seize, grasp," or "to harm" (1 Cor. 7:1-2)
 - i. **immoralities (porneia)** are ANY touching that ignites sexual passion outside of God's holy union of marriage.
 - ii. **the marriage bed is to be undefiled** (Heb. 13:4)
 - iii. God is NOT a "kill-joy;" He is protecting us, so we will be able to fully experience the joy sex can bring to a marriage and the glory sex can bring to Him!
- h. Unrepentant sinners will not **inherit the kingdom of God** (1 Cor. 6:9-10)
 - i. Therefore, Believers should not be characterized by unrepentant sin (1 Cor. 6:11)
- i. The world argues that sex is natural, so we must do it: **"Sex is for the body and the body is for sex"**
 - i. But Paul argues: **"Yet the body is not for immorality [porneia], but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body"** (1 Cor. 6:12-13)
- j. God's will for your body is to **Flee immorality...For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body** (1 Cor. 6:18-20)
- k. A Christian should not ask "how far can I go until I sin?" but "how far from sin can I remain?"