

# American Idols: Sex

## 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

*"God has called us to live holy lives, not impure lives."  
- 1 Thess. 4:7 (NLT)*

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As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

***If you could only learn about sex from pop culture, what would you learn?***

***Growing up, who were the people that taught you about sex? How helpful and influential were they?***

***What have you learned about sex from the church? Do you think the church is uneasy or confident when it comes to discussing sex? Explain.***

Churches can't afford to be quiet about sex, because no one else in our society is ashamed to talk about it. Arguably, pop culture emphasizes everything about sex except for God's plan. Furthermore, as Christians, we have been given the truth about these issues. Paul reminds us that the spiritual family deals with sexual immorality rather than shying away from it. Our church and our children need to understand that idolizing sex has consequences, but that sex also has a wonderful place inside a God's design.

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By keeping sex in its proper place **YOU WILL PLEASE GOD.** Read v.1.

Several times in scripture God lets us know that we please Him when we "walk" with him according to His Word. Read the following passages: **Leviticus 26:3-4; Deuteronomy 5:33; Hebrews 11:5.** If you could use one word to sum up how we please God what would it be? Write your answer below.

How can you obey the Lord in your sex life as a married couple? See **Matthew 5:27-32; Exodus 20:14.** As a single person? See **Romans 13:13-14.** Is there anything unclear in these verses when it comes to how we please God in our sexuality? Discuss.

It's been said if you live long enough with a lie you start believing it. What lies have we started to believe about sexuality that are clearly contrary to God's word? If willing, share any struggles you've had personally with sexual temptation and how God has worked in you.

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When you choose to follow God's desires **YOU ARE SANCTIFIED BY GOD.** Read vv.2-5.

What does it mean to be sanctified? According to v. 7 what is the opposite of being sanctified?

Read in **Titus 2:11-14**. What is it that “trains” or “instructs” us to live a holy, or sanctified, life? (v. 11-12) Discuss how that is possible.

According to these verses, is living a life of holiness today a reality? How so, and what can we do to encourage each other in this?

Are you always “eager to do good?” On a scale of 1 to 10 how are we doing teaching our children an eagerness to do good? Explain.

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When you don't trespass outside of God's boundaries for sex **YOU WON'T BE PUNISHED BY GOD.**  
**Read vv. 6-8.**

God is clear about the consequences of living in the flesh. Read **Galatians 6:7-8** and discuss what it means to “reap what you sow” when it comes to sexual immorality.

Read **2 Corinthians 5:9-10**. Does it seem strange the Bible talks about payback for things we've done? Are believers immune to receiving what is due for our ill behavior? Explain.

**Hebrews 13:4** says “God will judge sexually immoral people and adulterers.” How have you seen God's judgement against sexual impurity? How have you seen sexual purity rewarded by God?

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### **Pray:**

As you close your meeting take time to pray with you group. Pray the Lord would impress upon your heart the desire to obey him and His commands concerning sexual impurity. Call on the Holy Spirit for strength to stand in the face of temptation and that He might continue to purify, sanctify, and make you holy each day as you walk with Him. Take a moment of silence to allow your group to confess sin in their life that needs to be forgiven and pray that God would help them repent.

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### **Connect:**

Read **2 Corinthians 6:16-18** this week. Call out to God to rid your temple of the idols that are destroying your fellowship with Him. Claim your rights as a child of God who walks with their Father daily!