

## Questions for God: Where is the line?

1 Thessalonians 4.1-8

[Food= Misplaced/Manipulated Desires over Need]

### The Will of God

Sanctification- Holiness. Pursuit of God

- Abstain from sexual immorality
- Control your own body
- Don't wrong your brother

[Timeline of porneia]

- *Where is the line?*
- ALL = PORNEIA
- Sex is a gift to be given away between a husband and wife in the covenant of marriage.
  - Questions to ask yourself, no matter your marital status: "is this for me or my spouse?"

### Problem

1. The church has been mostly silent on this topic. This is a gift to be enjoyed [fireplace]
2. The church has not stood firm on this topic. [I'm not comfortable, therefore it is not okay]

### Where Does That Leave Us?

Will of God

- Sanctification/Holiness. [Moving towards God]

Sin ("like you don't know God")

- Elevating a Desire to the level of NEED. Non-Sanctification [Moving away from God]

Gospel

- [God comes to us]
- You cannot remedy the gap (between you and God), so God comes to you (through Jesus) and becomes a sacrifice (on your behalf) in order to be a bridge the gap (created by you), bringing you into a right relationship with God (adopted into His family).
- No Sin. No Shame. —> NEW LIFE

### The Gospel

Everyone needs the Gospel

- The Christian who is flirting with PORNEIA. The Non-Christian who is pursuing PORNEIA.

This has been the plan from the beginning

- Genesis 3- The enemy took a gift (garden and its fruit) that was given as good and manipulated it in order to destroy. He makes you desire something that is not for you, then he convinces you that this desire is now a need.
- God's Response: A PROMISE: seed of the woman would defeat the seed of the serpent. (Gospel)

Jesus has come to make all things RIGHT

- God has given us a gift (sex) that He created for us to enjoy properly.
- The enemy has manipulated this gift and created misplaced desires which lead to our destruction. [Sin that involves the whole body- 1 Cor 6.8. Sin that affects others- 1 Thess 4.6]
- The Gospel is extended to everyone. Even if you are convinced that you have "ruined" yourself. The "Good News" is that Jesus came to give you a NEW LIFE.

## Small Group Questions:

The will of God is your sanctification (moving towards God). Think of a time in your life where you were moving towards God. What were some things that you were doing that helped you in this process?

- What about a time when you were not moving towards God? What were some things that you began to neglect that played a role in this time of your life?

Our culture has played a significant role in setting the narrative of how people are supposed to embrace, accept, and interact with their own sexuality and others. What are some ways that you have seen our culture manipulate this gift that God has given us.

- How have you seen the church misplay interactions with people in this realm?
- What can we begin to do to make things right?

Read 1 Corinthians 7.1-5. We defined sex as a gift to be given away, between a husband and wife in the covenant of marriage. How does this help us see more clearly what God expects from us in this area of life?

- [Married People] How can this passage free you up to enjoy this gift from God?
- [Single People] How can this passage free you up to seek purity in this area of your life?

The Gospel is God coming to us to bridge the gap we created. Jesus destroys the sin that we find ourselves enslaved to. This happens for the person who does not know God and the person who does know Him. Share of a time where you have receive freedom from a sin that enslaved you.

- Who in your life needs to experience this kind of freedom?