

1 THESSALONIANS CHAPTER 4

Lesson 7: Sexual Immorality/Fornication

1Thessalonians 4:3-7

22 January 2024

In 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7 we find a comparison of the model Christian's attitude and motivations with those of the Gentiles which know not God. The world's approach to life is unrestrained carnality. The believer's life is to be set apart for God's use and glory.

I. THE MARKS OF A SANCTIFIED LIFE

- A. Abstinence from fornication (v. 3). This is any sexual activity outside the marriage bond.
- B. Conquest of concupiscence (v. 5). This is a strong, compelling sexual desire.
- C. Refusal to defraud (v. 6). This is cheating, which includes application to the realm of sexual and personal relationships.
- D. Honorable use of the body (v. 4).
- E. Clean living (v. 7).

II. THE SIN OF FORNICATION

- A. Fornication is a sin against one's own body (1 Corinthians 6:9-20).
- B. Because the Lord will bring vengeance upon such a sinner (4:6).
- C. There is no escaping punishment for this transgression (Hebrews 13:4).
- D. God's wrath is upon the fornicator (Ephesians 5:3-6).

III. CERTAIN VICTORY OVER SEXUAL SIN

- A. Allowing God to control the use of our vessels (v. 4; 2 Corinthians 4:7).
- B. Keeping the body in subjection (1 Corinthians 9:27).
- C. Avoiding that which provokes lust (1 John 2:16).
 - 1. Immodest persons of the opposite gender (Lamentations 3:51).
 - 2. Movies, television, magazines, etc. which portray immodest persons of the opposite gender (Num 3:52).
 - 3. Unrestrained thoughts (2 Corinthians 10:5).
 - 4. Yielding the body to the control of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:16).

IV. THE EXAMPLE OF JOSEPH

- A. Refused the advances of a forward woman (Gen 39:8)
- B. Called fornication great wickedness (Genesis 39:9)
- C. Though no one else present he knew it would be a sin against God (Genesis 39:11)
- D. Risking his career and even his life he fled fornication (Genesis 39:12)
- E. God rewarded him with a throne (Gen 41:42, 43)

Note: Horse sense is knowing when to say "nay".