

The Argument for Sexual Purity

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

- **Argument #1: GOD'S CLEAR BOUNDARY IS TO AVOID ALL SEXUAL IMMORALITY.**

Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. ²For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. ³For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; . . . 1 Thessalonians 4:1-3 (English Standard Version)

- Sanctification = growth in Christlikeness (See 2 Corinthians 3:18)
- Sexual immorality = Greek, *pornia* = sexual intercourse outside of marriage

(See Exodus 20:14; Leviticus 20:12,15,16,19; Leviticus 18:22; Matthew 5:27-28; Romans 1:26-27; Romans 13:9; 1 Corinthians 5:1, 2; 6:9-10; Hebrews 13:4)

*But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
Matthew 5:28 (ESV)*

(See 2 Corinthians 12:21; 1 Peter 4:3; 2 Peter 2:18; Romans 13:13)

- **Argument #2: GOD'S CLEAR BOUNDARY IS TO MAINTAIN SEXUAL PURITY THROUGH COURTSHIP.**

For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; ⁴that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, ⁵not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; ⁶and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter . . . 1 Thessalonians 4:3-6a (New American Standard Bible)

- "Possess your own vessel" = take a wife for himself (See 1 Peter 3:7)

Two Ways of Treating a Man or Woman with Honor

- Say "No" to premarital sex.
transgress = "go beyond a boundary"
defraud = "cheat" or "take advantage"
- Say "No" to cohabitation.

Why is Living Together a Bad Idea?

- Cohabitation is not a step to marriage.
- Cohabitation increases the risk of divorce for those who do marry.
- Cohabiting couples have a less healthy and satisfying relationship.

- **Argument #3: WHEN WE LIVE OUTSIDE OF GOD'S BOUNDARIES, WE PUSH GOD AWAY.**

*. . . anyone who refuses to live by these rules is not disobeying human rules but is rejecting God, who gives His Holy Spirit to you.
1 Thessalonians 4:8 (New Living Translation)*