

Purity

1 Thessalonians 4-5

I see that the clearest, most thorough, and longest argument in 1 Thess 4 is for sexual purity. Paul gives several things to think about to spur them on to fidelity through and through (5:23).

1. This is HOW TO LIVE TO PLEASE GOD → sounds like a good name for a book. ^{4:1}
2. You are pleasing Him. Now (admonished in Jesus) do it, please Him, MORE & MORE. (It is like he is saying “Don’t be offended or defensive, just get better and better at loving Him.”) ^{4:1}
3. This is something you know (or at least you should have heard me when I told you last time). ^{4:2}
4. This is a proclamation given BY THE AUTHORITY OF KING JESUS. ^{4:2}
5. God’s will is for you to be HOLY. ^{4:3}
6. AVOID these sins. Flee sexual immorality (1 Cor 5:18). Run. ^{4:3}
(Gk) *apechō* = “be distant or [keep] at a distance” (as in Lk 7:5; 15:20; 24:13)
If any kind of impurity/temptation is in the area turn around and walk on the other side of the street.
7. LEARN TO CONTROL YOUR BODY (see also Romans 12:1,2) ^{4:4}
8. Be HOLY & honorable ^{4:4}
9. Don’t be like heathen (unbelievers or ignorant). They don’t know God. ^{4:5}
10. Don’t be controlled by lustful passions (1 John 2:15,16) ^{4:5}
11. Don’t wrong others, i.e. don’t sin against them. ^{4:6}
You are sinning against others when you don’t treat or view them with dignity, but as some physical object for your self-indulgent pleasure.
12. Don’t take advantage of them. ^{4:6}
 - i) they may be hard pressed for money
 - ii) they may have been emotionally or physically abused when young to have such low worth to act promiscuously.
 - iii) they should at least be pitied for being without a shepherd.Don’t manipulate weak-willed women or men, or be opportunistic when it comes to sexual purity.
13. YOU WILL BE PUNISHED FOR EACH OF THESE SINS. ^{4:6}
14. You have been warned. ^{4:6}
15. Remember God’s call (5:24; see also Romans 8:30) ^{4:7}
His call is effectual - “It is more than an invitation. It is an invitation which *creates* a response and causes the hearer willingly and freely to accept the invitation.”
16. Not called to be impure. CALLED TO HOLY LIFE. ^{4:7}
17. Rejecting this is rejecting God, not men. ^{4:8}
18. He GIVES His Holy Spirit so you can live victorious. ^{4:8} (see Gal 5:16)
19. Treat each other as brothers and sisters as God taught you. ^{4:9-10}
20. Don’t be idle. Make it your ambition to work hard. Be respected by outsiders. ^{4:11-12}
21. Hope of Christ’s return and resurrection purifies us. ^{4:13-18} (1Peter 4:7, cf. Rom 13:11-14; 2 Peter 3:1,11-12,14)
22. Christ successfully accomplished this (we would be alert & self-controlled ^{5:6,8}) for those for whom He died ^{5:10}

Ques. *What is required in the seventh commandment? (Do not commit adultery)*

Ans. The seventh commandment requires the preservation of our own and our neighbor's chastity, in heart, speech, and behavior.

Q. 1. What is the seventh commandment in regards to?

A. The seventh commandment is in regards to our own and others' chastity or **purity**.

Q. 2. What does the 7th commandment require, in reference unto our own and the chastity of others?

A. The 7th commandment requires, in reference unto our own and others' chastity, the preservation thereof, in keeping of ourselves unpolluted, and doing what in us lies to prevent the defilement of others. "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: that every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor." — 1 Thess. 4:3, 4. "It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his body in a way that is holy and honorable." — 1 Thess 4:3,4 (NIV)

Q. 3. Wherein are we bound by this commandment to preserve our own and our neighbor's chastity?

A. We are bound by this commandment to preserve our own and our neighbor's chastity

1. In **heart**, by such love unto, and desire after, and delight in one another's company, as is pure and chaste; and that whether we be men, as to the company of women; or women, as to the company of men. "See that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently." — 1 Pet. 1:22.

2. In **speech**, by such discourse one with another, as is uncorrupt, and may tend to one another's edification and sanctification. "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." — Eph. 4:29.

3. In **behavior**, by such a conversation and actions as are modest and chaste. "So that if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives." — 1 Pet. 3:1, 2.

Q. 4. (**How**) Whereby may we preserve our chastity?

A. We may preserve our chastity

1. By **watchfulness**; and that,

(1.) Over our *hearts and spirits*, to oppose uncleanness in the first desires of it, and inclinations of heart to it, and risings of it in the thoughts.

"Keep thy heart with all diligence." — Prov. 4:23. "Therefore take heed to your spirit." — Mal. 2:16.

(2.) Over our *senses*; our eyes, to turn them away from such objects as may provoke lust.

"I made a covenant with mine eyes not to look lustfully at a girl." — Job 31:1. "I will set before my eyes no vile things." — Psalm 101:4

Our ears, to shut them against all lascivious discourse; we must watch also against such touches and wanton dalliances as may be an incentive to unchaste desires, and take heed of all light and lewd company, and watch to avoid all occasions, and resist temptations to the sin of uncleanness. "Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house." — Prov. 5:8. "His master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me. But he refused; and said, How can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" — Gen. 39:7-9.

2. By **diligence** in our callings, wherein, when our **bodies and minds are busily employed**, both may be preserved from those unclean practices and desires which idle persons are more prone unto. "She eats not the bread of idleness. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excels them all." — Prov. 31:27, 29.

"And Dinah went out to see the daughters of the land. And Shechem took her and lay with her, and defiled her." — Gen. 34:1, 2.

3. By **temperance in eating and drinking**, excess in either of which doth pamper the body, and excite unto lust. "They were as fed horses in the morning: every one neighed after his neighbor's wife." — Jer. 5:8.

"Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his color in the cup," &c. "Thine eyes shall behold strange women." — Prov. 23:31, 33.

4. By **abstinence**, and keeping under the body, when there is need, with frequent **fastings**. "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection, lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a cast-away (or disqualified)." — 1 Cor. 9:27.

5. By the **fear of God**, and awful apprehension of his presence and all-seeing eye. "And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger? For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord, and he ponders all his goings." — Prov. 5:20, 21.

6. By **faith in Jesus Christ**, and thereby drawing virtue from him for the purifying of the heart and the crucifying of the fleshly lusts. "Purifying their hearts by faith." — Acts 15: 9.

"And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh, with the affections and lusts." — Gal. 5:24.

7. By **application of the promises of cleansing the heart, and subduing iniquity**. "Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean; from all your filthiness will I cleanse you." — Ezek. 36:25.

"He will subdue our iniquities." — Micah 7:19.

"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." — 2 Cor. 7:1.

8. By the **help of the Spirit**. "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die; but if ye, through the Spirit, do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live." — Rom. 8:13.

9. By **frequent and fervent prayer**.

"Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than the snow." — Isa. 51:2, 7.

"Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity." — Ps. 119:37.

"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." — Matt. 6:13.

10. When no other means will avail to quench burning desires, **marriage** is to be made use of; and that must be in the Lord.

"But if they cannot contain, let them marry; for it is better to marry than to burn. If her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord." — 1 Cor. 7:9, 39.

Q. 5. **Why** must we preserve our chastity?

A. We must preserve our chastity

1. **Because we are men and women, and not beasts**, who are under no law; it is suitable to the principles of reason, and law of God written upon the heart, as well as the express command of the word, to keep ourselves chaste and clean.

2. **Because we are Christians and not heathens**, who have no knowledge or fear of God.

"Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles who know not God." — 1 Thess. 4:5.

"This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness." — Eph. 4:17, 19.

3. **Because we are true believers**, our bodies are **members of Christ**, and **temples of the Holy Ghost**, and **NOT OUR OWN**, and therefore ought to be kept clean and holy

“Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. What! know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? What! know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?” — 1 Cor. 6:15, 16, 19.

“If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy: for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.” — 1 Cor. 3:17.

Q. 6. What are those **actions** forbidden **which do tend** to chastity and uncleanness?

A. The actions forbidden which do tend to unchastity and uncleanness, are

1. **Drunkennes**. “And they made their father drunk with wine that night; and the first-born went in, and lay with her father.” — Gen. 19:33.

2. **Gluttony** and **idleness**. “Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister, Sodom; pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her; and she committed abomination before me.” — Ezek. 16:49, 50.

3. **Wanton gestures and attires [flirting & immodest dress]**. “The daughters of Zion walk with stretched forth necks, and wanton eyes, walking, and mincing as they go.” — Isa. 3:16.

“There met him a woman, with the attire of an harlot; and she caught him, and kissed him.” — Prov. 7:10, 13.

4. Frequenting light and lewd **company**, reading lascivious **books**, beholding unchaste **pictures**, or **doing anything which may provoke lust**.

Q. 7. (**More WHY**) Wherefore ought all to forbear all unchastity and uncleanness, especially the grosser acts of fornication and adultery?

A. All ought to forbear unchastity and uncleanness, especially the grosser acts of fornication and adultery

1. Because fornication and adultery is a sin **very offensive and dishonorable unto God**. “And David sent messengers, and took her: and she came in unto him, and he lay with her. But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord.” — 2 Sam. 11: 4, 27.

2. Because fornication and adultery is very **pernicious and hurtful unto themselves that are guilty of it**.

(1.) It is a sin against their body, which defiles it, and oftentimes wastes and consumes it. “Flee fornication. Every sin that a man does is outside the body; but he that commits fornication, sins against his own body.” — 1 Cor. 6:18.

“Remove thy way far from her, lest thou mourn at last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed.” — Prov. 5:8, 11.

(2.) It is a sin against their soul, which doth blind the mind, waste the conscience, and, in the issue, doth bring destruction upon the soul. “Whoredom and wine take away the heart;” that is, the understanding. — Hos. 4:11.

Whoso committeth adultery with a woman, lacketh understanding; he that doeth it, destroyeth his own soul.” — Prov. 6:32.

(3.) It woundeth and blotteth the name. “Whoso committeth adultery, a wound and dishonour shall he get, and his reproach shall not be wiped away.” — Prov. 6:32, 33.

(4.) It wasteth the estate and substance. “Lest strangers be filled with thy wealth, and thy labours be in the house of a stranger.” — Prov. 5:10.

“For by means of a whorish woman, a man is brought to a piece of bread.” — Prov. 6:26.

(5.) It bringeth many to an untimely end. “The adulteress will hunt for the precious life.” — Prov. 6:26. “She hath cast down many wounded; yea, many strong men have been slain by her.” — Prov. 7:26.

3. Because fornication and adultery is **injurious to others**; the party with whom uncleanness is committed, is involved in the same guilt; and if the party be married, it is an injury to the other married relation.