



# SANCTIFIED SEXUALITY

GOD'S DESIGN,  
DISORDER,  
& THE GOSPEL





SEX, LOVE, AND  
»CHA-  
RELATIONSHIPS IN A  
SING  
CONFUSED CULTURE  
LOVE»  
SEAN McDOWELL

# Pursuing Sanctified Sexuality

1 Thessalonians  
4:1-8



## SANCTIFIED SEXUALITY

GOD'S DESIGN,  
DISORDER,  
& THE GOSPEL



- *1 in 5 mobile searches are for pornography.*
- *57% of teens search out porn at least monthly.*
- ***64% of Christian men and 15% of Christian women say they watch porn at least once a month.***

[www.covenanteyes.com/pornstats/](http://www.covenanteyes.com/pornstats/)

- *90% of teens and 96% of young adults are either encouraging, accepting, or neutral when they talk about porn with their friends.*
- *68% of divorce cases involved one party meeting a new lover over the Internet.*
- *56% involved one party having “an obsessive interest in pornographic websites.”*

[www.covenanteyes.com/pornstats/](http://www.covenanteyes.com/pornstats/)

# The Real Deal

## Genuine Christianity: Faith, Love, and Hope

A look back at the birth ...

1:1

3:13

Genuine Transformation

1:1-10

Genuine Ministry

2:1-16

Genuine Concern

2:17-3:13

A look forward towards more growth ...

4:1

5:28

Genuine Growth

4:1-12

Genuine Comfort

4:13-18

Genuine Expectation

5:1-11

Genuine Living

5:12-28

**You got it... a working faith.**

**Continue more in it... the labor of love.**

**Be sure of it ... the fulfillment of hope.**

1 Thessalonians 1:3,10; 2:19; 3:11-13; 4:13-18; 5:1-11; 23-24

**c. AD 51 from Corinth**

**Acts 17:1-9**

# Reminder of God's call to sanctified sexuality

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. <sup>3</sup> **For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality;**

1 Thessalonians 4:1–3

*“Can you hear your Father’s compassion and love. I want you to experience the joy of sanctification. I want you to experience and flourish optimally in your sexual life. This is God’s desire and this is His yearning. This isn’t a stern task master ready to slap you against your head every time you step out of line. God says, I know you better than you know yourself. Who do you think came up with the idea of hormones? The Creator did. Who came up with the idea of sexual intimacy? God did. I know what is best for your optimal flourishing and deepest delight. Don’t buy the world propaganda to rob you of pleasure. It is passionate desire to intensify it.”*

**Sam Storms**

# Reminder of God's call to sanctified sexuality

**<sup>3</sup> For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality;**

1 Thessalonians 4:3

# What is sexual immorality?

**<sup>3</sup> For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality;** **1 Thessalonians 4:3**

porneia “describes any form of illicit sexual behavior. Any sexual activity that deviates from the monogamous relationship between a husband and wife is immoral by God’s standard.”

MacArthur

# How do I abstain from sexual immorality?

**Desire a Greater Pleasure --- To Know, Worship, and Love God**

**... that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God;**

**1 Thessalonians 4:4-5**

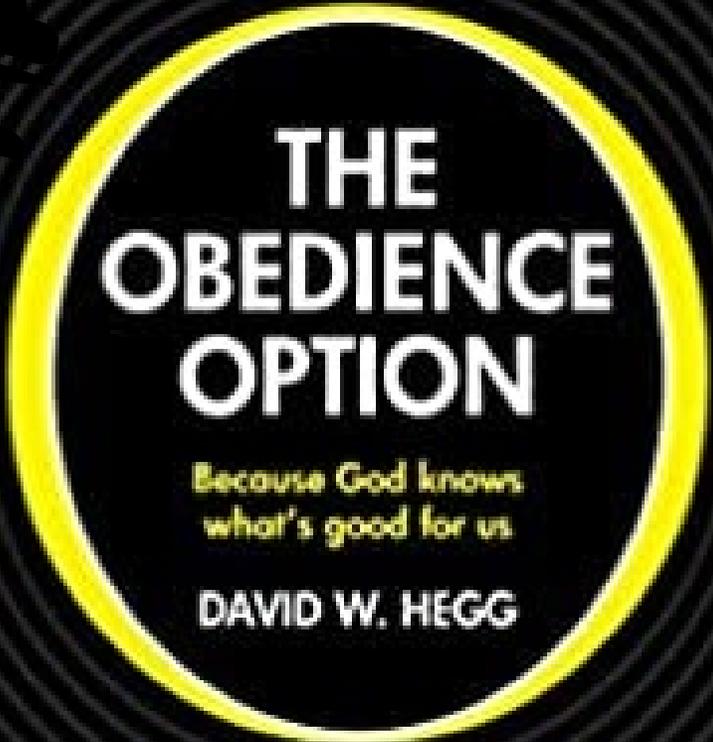
# How do I abstain from sexual immorality?

**Desire a Greater Pleasure --- To Know, Worship, and Love God**

*“What comes out of a person is what defiles him. For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person...”*

**Mark 7:20-23**

ONE PASSION MAY  
SEEM IRRESISTIBLE  
UNTIL A GREATER  
PASSION COMES  
ALONG



**THE  
OBEDIENCE  
OPTION**

*Because God knows  
what's good for us.*

DAVID W. HEGG

# How do I abstain from sexual immorality?

**Desire a Greater Pleasure --- To Know, Worship, and Love God**

**... that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God;**

**1 Thessalonians 4:4-5**

# How do I abstain from sexual immorality?

## Love People

... that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and **honor**, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter ..

1 Thessalonians 4:4-6

# Utilize God's Resources

... that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor...

1 Thessalonians 4:4

# Practice the Put off and Put On Principle

<sup>5</sup> **Put to death** therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ...  
<sup>7</sup>In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. <sup>8</sup>But now you must **put them all away**: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth....<sup>12</sup> **Put on** then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience...<sup>14</sup>And above all these **put on** love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Colossians 3: 5,7–8,12,14



## Put off (Col. 3:8-9; Eph. 4:22)

Watching movies/shows with sexually explicit material

**When I am more prone to? (name situations, people, places etc.)**

Weekend when I want to relax to a movie or show

**What thoughts I need to renew?**

It not really that bad. Sex happens in relationship. Its just rated R.

## Put on (Col. 3:12-14; Eph. 4:24)

Purity of mind and eyes

**What thoughts I need to think? Or actions to take?**

- God designed sex to glorify himself. While I realize sex happens outside of marriage. I do not need to desensitize myself to God's best plan.
- Get VidAngel

**List Scripture to meditate on:**

<sup>27</sup>Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned? <sup>28</sup>Or can one walk on hot coals and his feet not be scorched?

Proverbs 6:27–28

# Participate in Accountable community

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:1-2

# Prayerfully walk by the Spirit

4that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, 5not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; 6that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. 7 For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. 8Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his **Holy Spirit** to you.

1 Thessalonians 4:4–8

# Prayerfully walk by the Spirit

<sup>16</sup>But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh... <sup>22</sup>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5:16,22-23a