

“ABSTAIN FROM SEXUAL IMMORALITY”

INTRODUCTION

A. **1st Thessalonians 4:3**

1. Abstinance from sexual immorality is *“the will of God”*.
 - a. **Romans 12:1-2**
“The will of God” must be proven perfectly in our minds and in our bodies.
 - b. **1st John 2:15-17**
The things in the world are perishing, but by doing *“the will of God”* we may abide forever.
2. Abstinance from sexual immorality is our *“sanctification”*.
 - a. *“Sanctification”* is holiness or purification and speaks of setting apart as special.
 - b. **John 17:17**
“Sanctification” comes from the truth of God’s word.
 - c. **Psalms 119:9**
God’s word must be obeyed in order to be clean.

B. **1st Thessalonians 4:4**

1. Abstinance requires control of one’s own body.
 - a. **Romans 6:12-13**
Our bodies should be used for righteousness, not for sin.
 - b. **1st Corinthians 6:13_b-20**
 - i. Sexual sin is a sin against one’s own body, but one’s body is not one’s own – it is the Lord’s (18-19)!
Therefore, to commit sexual immorality is to deprive the Lord of righteous service.
 - ii. Sexual immorality is something to flee (18)! To flee is to run away from.

α. Genesis 39:7-12

When Joseph was seduced by his master's wife, he **literally** ran away. He is a role model.

2. Control of one's own body is something each "*should know how*" to do (4).
 - a. It is not enough to simply be aware that sexual immorality is contrary to the will of God, and to abstain from such is our sanctification.
 - b. What we need is practical advice as to **how** to avoid sexual immorality. Our purpose in this study is to identify those sins which lead to the sin of fornication, "gateway sins" if you will.

I. ABSTAIN FROM FLIRTATION

A. Flirt: "To make playfully romantic or sexual overtures" (American Heritage Dictionary).

1. Analysis

- a. The word "overture" "...indicates readiness to undertake a course of action or open a relationship".
- b. By this definition, flirtation is one person telling another he or she is ready for sex.

2. Prohibited

a. Proverbs 7:1-5, 21-23

It is the work of an "*immoral woman*", a "*seductress*", to "*flatter with her words*". Using "*enticing speech*" and "*flattering lips*" she seduces a young man, "*caus[ing] him to yield*".

b. Proverbs 5:3-6

What she says is going to sound so good, but **don't fall for it!**

B. Flirt: "To deal playfully, triflingly, or superficially with" (American Heritage Dictionary).

1. **Analysis**

“Playfully” means it isn’t serious, “triflingly” means that it is unimportant, and “superficially” means it’s shallow.

2. **Prohibited**

a. **Genesis 2:18-24**

Marriage, and the romance attendant to it, comes from God. Accordingly, romance should not be treated so lightly and so frivolously. It deserves greater respect than flirtation affords it.

b. **Proverbs 25:11**

Our words must be “*fitly spoken*”. An insincere compliment does not qualify, so **don’t flirt!**

II. **ABSTAIN FROM IMMODESTY**

A. **Genesis 2:16-17, 25; 3:6-7, 21**

It is of profound interest to note that when a person becomes aware of the difference between good and evil, that person understands that nakedness is inappropriate and therefore desires to cover it.

B. **1st Timothy 2:9-10**

1. This text rules out women dressing in such a way as to draw attention to themselves.

a. Low-cut tops draw attention to a woman’s breasts, so ladies, **don’t wear them!**

b. Low-rise pants draw attention to a woman’s buttocks, so ladies, **don’t wear them!**

c. Pants with large, colorfully printed words appearing on the butt portion also draw inappropriate attention, so ladies, **don’t wear those either!**

d. Pants with the butt portion noticeably different in color than the rest of the garment draw inappropriate attention, as well, **so ladies should not wear them!**

2. Instead, women should dress “*with propriety*,” better “shamefacedness” (KJV). This means bashfulness or shyness. That is, she should dress with a sense of **shame**. She should be ashamed to expose her body, preferring instead to keep it under wraps.

a. She should be embarrassed to wear a strapless top.

b. She should be embarrassed to bare her midriff.

c. She should be embarrassed to show too much leg.

3. To reveal or conceal: “Which is proper for women professing godliness?”

C. **Proverbs 7:10**

What one chooses to wear is a form of communication. If it were not so, there could be no such thing as “*the attire of a harlot*”. Don’t dress in such a way as to be described as trashy or sluttish.

D. **Exodus 20:26**

Before a woman concludes that she is sufficiently covered, she should ask herself whether it is possible she might unintentionally reveal a part of her body based on her posture in relation to the vantage point of another person.

1. If she is walking upstairs, could someone below see up her skirt, dress, or shorts?

2. If she is sitting down, could someone standing above see down her shirt?

III. **ABSTAIN FROM LUST**

A. **2nd Samuel 11:2-5**

Had David not seen Bathsheba undressed, he would not have fornicated with her. She was guilty for exposing herself, but he was guilty for taking interest.

B. Proverbs 6:25

1. A man must not undress a woman with his eyes.
2. He must not fantasize about possible encounters.
3. He must refrain from viewing pornography.
 - a. Those who would never dare to enter a dirty old building with a flashing neon sign that says “Adult Emporium” can now access all the same trash at any computer in the home, so be careful.
 - b. Posters and calendars of women in swimwear qualify as pornography.
 - c. Many catalogs delivered by mail qualify as pornography.
 - d. Much of the programming on television and most movies include pornography in some quantity.

C. Matthew 5:27-28

1. Sexual action and sexual desire are equally sinful to God.
2. Such thoughts may seem harmless. After all, the woman herself will probably never know what you’ve thought. But what have you thought? Haven’t you raped her in your heart?
3. What if the tables were turned? Gentlemen, if another man looked at you with obvious sensual desire, how would you feel, knowing you were the object of his sinful thoughts?

D. Job 31:1

Like Job, will you make a covenant with your eyes, not to look upon a young woman?

IV. ABSTAIN FROM LEWDNESS

A. 1st Peter 4:3

Notice that lewdness is a distinct sin from lust – it is more than evil desire.

B. Galatians 5:19

Notice also that lewdness is a distinct sin from fornication and adultery – it stops short of actual intercourse.

C. Lewdness means “indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females” (Thayer).

1. Indecent bodily movements include:

a. So-called “exotic dancing,” which is just a pathetic euphemism for stripping.

b. What Britney Spears does on stage.

2. Unchaste handling of males and females includes:

a. Two people rubbing up against each other on the dance floor.

b. A couple groping or fondling one another during a make-out session.

c. As a teenager, I was acquainted with a young brother in Christ who was rather popular with young women. He was very proud of his self-restraint. A girl he was going with at the time kept asking for sex and he was strong enough to decline. Good for him you might say, but I asked him what the circumstances were when she would make such requests. The answer: after making out in his bedroom for an hour! He was guilty of exciting her sexual passion, and then felt proud of himself for not going any further. Shame on him! He was guilty of lewdness, not to mention keeping “*evil company*” (1st Corinthians 15:33).

D. **1st Timothy 5:1-2; Song Of Songs 4:9-12**

When Christians date one another, they would do well to remember their relationship in the Lord is far more important than their courtship.

1. **Ecclesiastes 3:5**

Some hugs should be skipped.

2. **1st Thessalonians 5:26**

Our kisses should be holy and are deserved by all the brethren.

CONCLUSION

A. Song Of Songs 8:4

With all that has been said, the bottom line is: Wait!

B. 1st Corinthians 7:2; Proverbs 5:15-19

As an alternative to sinful sexual fulfillment, marriage offers sexual fulfillment with God's approval.

C. Ephesians 5:3-5

Christians should behave as Christians.