

Sex & sexuality: spiritual **blessings** with necessary **boundaries** to **protect them**

Lust: disordered (sometimes damaged) pursuit of physical pleasure

Ineffective Battle Strategies

INSERT picture of human brain

I Thessalonians 4:1-3

Additionally then, brothers and sisters, we ask and encourage you in the Lord Jesus, that as you have received instruction from us on how you should live and please God—as you are doing—do this even **more**. For you know what commands we gave you through the Lord Jesus. For **this is God's will**, your **sanctification**: that you keep away from **sexual immorality**

{1 and 1a on same slide}

- 1) Do I believe that God wants **more & best** for me?
- a) And that He has provided the **resources** to **move** forward?
- b) What does the **Cross** say?

I Peter 3:18

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might **bring you to God**.

{same slide}

3 Words:

Justification → *legal*

Sanctification → *living*

Glorification → *perfection*

I Corinthians 6:9-11

Don't you know that the unrighteous will not inherit God's kingdom? Do not be deceived: No sexually immoral people, idolaters, adulterers, or males who have sex with males, no thieves, greedy people, drunkards, verbally abusive people, or swindlers will inherit God's kingdom. And some of you used to be like this. But you were washed, you were **sanctified**, you were **justified** in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Matthew 5:27-29

"You have heard that it was said, Do not commit adultery. But I tell you, everyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of the parts of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

Discern between **imagined** and **enlightened** self-interest.

I Thessalonians 4:4-5

... keep away from sexual immorality, that each of you knows how to control his own **body** in holiness and honor, not with **lustful passions**, like the Gentiles, who don't **know** God.

2) What/Who is **ultimate**?

Body & Biology -or- God & Theology?

Gen. George Patton

Now if you are going to win any battle, you have to do one thing.

You have to make the mind run the body. Never let the body tell the mind what to do ...

→Lust is fought with **desires** (not without it).

Matthew 13:45-46

... the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls. When he found one priceless pearl, he went and sold **everything** he had and bought it.

I Thessalonians 4:6a

This means one must not transgress against and take advantage (*cheat*) of a brother or sister in this manner ...

3) How do I "**see**" other people?

Lust: an object to be used temporarily

Love: a soul to be cherished eternally

Lust: emotion & impulse without commitment

Love: emotion + faithfulness & endurance of covenant

I Thessalonians 4:6b-7

... because the Lord is an avenger of all these offenses, as we also previously told and warned you. For God has not called us to impurity but to **sanctification**

4) Do I understand/have I accepted my **calling**?

Satan uses **lust** ... then he uses the **guilt & shame** from it.

I Thessalonians 4:8

Consequently, anyone who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who gives you His Holy Spirit.

5) Do I believe God **rewards** purity (Matthew 5:8)?

F.O.M.O.

Lust costs me **God!**

BUT ... God still **pursues me!!**