

“A New Plea for an Old Priority: Living Morally Pure”

1 Thess. 4:1-8

The Sufficiency of His Grace for the Sustaining of His Suffering People

Living morally pure is God’s will for His people. Sin is a statement of our inability to find in Jesus Christ our sufficiency. Sin simply says that the object desired is able to do something for us that Jesus cannot. The sins of immorality are declarations of His inability to be the satisfier of our souls.

I. Moral purity begins in positional truth (v.1).

Paul did not live his life based on his feelings, emotions, or experiences.

Paul never makes a moral appeal without sourcing it in what we are in Him.

Walking in a manner worthy and pleasing to the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory (2:12; 4:1) is not something you are striving after; it is something you are to be living out.

II. Moral purity is sourced in the will of God (vv.2-6a).

A. The doctrine of sanctification

1. Sanctification has three parts.
2. All three parts are by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.

B. The doctrine of sexual purity

By being morally pure, I am declaring the all-satisfying sufficiency of Jesus Christ in my life, the life of my wife, children, and ministry.

III. Moral impurity comes with a warning (vv. 6b-8).

A. The Lord is the avenger in all these things (v.6b).

1. The inherent demerit of sin (Rom. 6:23)
2. Local church discipline (1 Cor. 5:11)
3. The government (Rom. 13:4)
4. Persecution for one’s faith in God (Heb. 12:1f; 1 Peter 4:16, 17)

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B. The call of God is to moral purity (v.7).

C. Immorality rejects God who gives His Holy Spirit to you (v.8).

APPLICATION:

1. Live your life from your position in Him and not from your experiences in life.
2. It is God's will for you to live a moral life.
3. If you refuse to live morally, then expect to reap the divine whirlwind of destruction.
4. Put on the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 13:14; Eph. 4:24).
5. Make no provision for the flesh (Rom. 13:14).
6. Lay aside the old self (Eph. 4:22).
7. Be renewed in the spirit of your mind (Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:23).
8. Kill the deeds of the flesh (Col. 3:5).
9. Set your mind on things above, not on the things that are on earth (Col. 3:2).
10. Lay aside every weight and the sin that does so easily entangles you (Heb. 12:1).
11. Fix your eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of faith (Heb. 12:2).
12. Abstain from all fleshly lusts (1 Pet. 2:11).