

3. The CLEAR CALL to Sexual Holiness

- Sexual holiness is GOD'S WILL for us.
- Sexual holiness means abstaining from SEXUAL IMMORALITY, which is any sexual activity OUTSIDE of marriage.
- Sexual holiness means STEWARDING our body and its sexual desires in HOLINESS and HONOR.
- Sexual holiness means EMBRACING God's good gift of sex in marriage.
- Sexual sin exposes us to the JUDGMENT of God.
- Disregarding the CALL to sexual holiness is disregarding GOD.

4. The GOSPEL POWER for Sexual Holiness

- Sexual holiness is a work of God by the HOLY SPIRIT in our lives.
- Sexual holiness is a work of God that is PROGRESSIVE, but not yet PERFECTIVE.
- Sexual holiness is a work of God through the LOVE of OTHERS.
- Sexual holiness is a work of God through our SUBMISSION and STRIVING.

Paul's letter to the Thessalonians takes a practical turn in chapter 4, as he begins to apply the Gospel to several common areas of life. The first topic he addresses is sexual holiness. The Thessalonians needed to be reminded again about what pleases God. And so do we!

1. The GOOD GIFT of Sex

- Sex is GOD'S.
- Sex is GOOD.
- Sex is for MARRIAGE between one man and one woman.
- Sex is for PROCREATION and PLEASURE.

2. The SAD REALITY of Sexual Brokenness

- Because of the FALL, we are ALL relationally and sexually broken.
- Our brokenness PLAYS OUT in a whole spectrum of ways.
- Marriage doesn't FIX the problem, because we bring our brokenness into marriage.
- Even married couples who are committed to God's design for sex often experience SEXUAL STRUGGLES.

Growth Groups are the glue that hold our church together. Growth Groups are groups of 6 - 12+ people that meet together during the week to process and apply the message, pray together, care for another and live life together. If you are interested in joining a Growth Group, go to gracecentralcoast.org.

Connecting and Caring for One Another

If you can, play the audio on “being more than just nice” from the Shepherd audio. Discuss this idea with your group. Why is it important for us as followers of Jesus to be Gospel-proclaiming people, not just nice people?

Digging into God’s Word & the Message Together

1. Begin your study this week by reading through the whole letter of First Thessalonians as a group. What themes did you hear? What connections did you see? What’s the value of a whole read through?
2. Here at Grace we’re committed to “coming under” God’s Word, not “standing over” it. This week we tackled this sensitive and relevant issue of sexual holiness. How did God speak to you through this text and message? (How many of you didn’t want to come to Growth Group this week?)
3. We are living in a hyper-sexualized culture. Do a little bit of cultural analysis and discuss our culture’s views and attitudes and messages about sex. How does all this impact and shape us?

4. Do you think we talk about the goodness of sex enough in the Church? Why is that important?
5. We are all sexually broken, because of the fall and because of our environment. But why is it so hard and so unsafe to admit/acknowledge our brokenness as a church family? What can we do together as a Growth Group and as a church to make it more safe and grow in this area?
6. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8. What is sexual immorality? Discuss why sexual holiness means fleeing sexual immorality and how sexual immorality “transgresses and wrongs” others. Discuss why sexual holiness also means embracing God’s gift of sex and how failing to do so also “transgresses and wrongs” others.
7. Review the section of the outline titled “The GOSPEL POWER for Sexual Holiness.” Can you find support for each of those sub-points in the text? Why do we call this Gospel POWER? How are these truths rooted in the Gospel? Which was most encouraging and helpful to you?

Praying Together

- In light of our shared sexual brokenness and since we need one another’s love for holiness, pray for one another in this critical area of life.
- Pray for a deeper acknowledgment of our shared brokenness across our church family.
- Share and pray for other needs.