1Thess #65

Satan has weaponized sexual desires!

Let us get back into the opening verses of 1Thessaloians chapter four.

Now keep in mind as I always remind my congregation that I teach to adults not children. If you have a teenager who is not at least 16 years old – it would be wise not to include them on my teaching.

I always try to remind listeners of this especially, when I have to touch on delicate subject matters like we will touch on for the next few lessons.

1Thes 4:1 Finally then, brothers *and sisters,* we request and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received *instruction* from us as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel *even* more.

The Apostle Paul is making a pivot toward deeper instruction and a call to reach forward toward SM.

[1Th 4:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/4/2/s_1115002) For you know what instructions we gave you by *the authority of* the Lord Jesus.

/[1Th 4:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/4/3/s_1115003) For this is the will of God, your sanctification; *that is,* that you **abstain from sexual immorality**;\

[1Th 4:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/4/4/s_1115004) that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,

Verses 3, 4 and 5 have a similar topic and also some other Biblical principles wrapped up within them, so we will dwell on these three verses over the next 4 or 5 lessons.

[1Th 4:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/4/5/s_1115005) not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God;

(Unbels)

Let us first look into the term used in verse 3 – sexual immorality.

/The use of the word *abstain* in the original context means full stop. It is a strong word and not a suggestion.

Sexual *immorality* – *porneia,* meaning anything outside of the Christian marriage bed.\

Abstain is the Greek word – *apechō*

(AH-PEC-O) it issued in a strong sense of the meaning to come to a complete halt. It is not just a call to back off slightly or given as suggestion.

PORN-EE-AH, covers a vast swath of sexual behaviors. It is where we get our English term, pornography from.

/At this historic point the Greeks and Romans predominantly led the culture in social life, arts, education and politics. Other than Judaism and the new converts of Christianity the majority were indoctrinated into a Hellenistic culture with a new blend of Roman leadership. Romans and Greeks managed to mix and match many aspects of culture and arts. Both followed false gods and sexual perversions were common practice.\

Romans and Greeks both practiced adultery within marriage, often in very open and or in an unashamed fashion, as if it were a normal part of marriage.

No one is to come between a husband and wife.

Bringing anyone into a marriage is a huge problem and when it gets intimate it is demonic and dangerous.

Sexual perversions were involved in temple worship. Prostitutes working in the temples were sometimes referred to as a priestess.

Over indulgence in alcohol and intoxicants were mixed with social life and sexual pleasures which gave birth to terms used for many years now, called sexual orgies.

There also was wife swapping, as well as young slave boys and girls - many would be pre-teens, used as sexual objects at elite parties. REPEAT

So, when we see warnings from the Apostle Paul concerning sexual immorality or partaking in any rituals with the Gentiles – this is much of what the Apostle Paul was warning against.

Turn to 1Corinthians chapter seven RF.

/Sexual relations fall under two categories; legitimate – Christian marriage, one man, one woman.

Illegitimate – any sexual behaviors or deviations outside of Christian marriage.

Sex was designed by GOD for pleasure (1st recreation) and then multiplication (2nd procreation). \

To cover this subject matter, we will first do an overview on Christian marriage.

 This is not a series on marriage.

Yet we do need to look at the one avenue GOD ordained for legitimate sexual intimacy.

God invented marriage to be a special relationship of unity, intimacy, and privacy between one adult man and one adult woman. Marriage is a structure which needs strong foundations and strong walls.

 REPEAT

Col. R.B. Thieme used the analogy of a castle in some of his teaching on marriage, which is a good analogy!

The main foundation is always TLJC, the word of God.

The Apostle Paul is speaking to Bels in Corinth who had their fair share of struggles with sexual immortality.

A few of the elders were actually questioning Paul. Because some of them struggled with legalism, they were trying to implement rules and regulations for congregation members.

Which on one hand appears to be a good idea.

Yet on the other, coming from legalistic rules, it is very intrusive to adult privacy and personal choices.

No one should try and manipulate people and their personal choices.

1Cor 7:1 Now concerning the things about which you wrote, it is good for a man not to touch a woman.

The Apostle Paul is agreeing with the fact that Christian men need to respect and honor all women and respect and honor the doctrine of marriage.

/[1Co 7:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/7/2/s_1069002) But because of sexual immoralities, **each man is to have his own wife**, and **each woman is to have her own husband**.

Since the creation of Christian marriage (Gen 2:21-25) it has been one man, one woman with no outside interference. \

The Apostle Paul is not saying because of sexual lust patterns - run out and get married.

He is telling them that marriage is sacred. Anything outside of Christian marriage, is not only a distraction but leads to sinful problems.

Sins that become huge stumbling blocks for all Christians involved.

Christian marriage is designed for two Bels who have taken serious steps toward maturity.

[1Co 7:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/7/3/s_1069003) The husband must fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise the wife also to her husband.

Christian marriage is the commitment to elevate your spouse above your own selfish desires.

Do not get married if you want your own desires and lust patterns fulfilled.

True Christian marriage means the needs of your spouse come before your own desires.

/[1Co 7:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/7/4/s_1069004) The **wife does not have authority over her own body**, but the husband *does;* and **likewise the husband also does not have authority** over his own body, but the wife *does.*

This is in relation to sexual behaviors and intimacy patterns. Christian marriage means a commitment to meeting the needs of your spouse.\

It is not a slave - master relationship for either party.

It is a mutual agreement and lifestyle of placing someone you love above your own desires.

[1Co 7:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/7/5/s_1069005) Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

Never play games of withholding affection to your spouse. Because that may be the opening Satan will find, to draw one or both parties away from the commitment of marriage.

/Eph 4:26 BE ANGRY, AND *YET* DO NOT SIN; **do not let the sun go down on your anger,** 27 and **do not give the devil an opportunity**.

Every marriage has struggles, good days and bad. Yet Christians must make the choice of honoring their commitment each day.\

You honor the LORD by honoring your marriage commitments.

Christian marriage has a huge bullseye upon it concerning satanic attacks. Christian marriage is the third witness in the angelic conflict…it has a great value to God and Satan as well!

This is one reason why sexual immorality is spread wide and far in the cosmic system.

/Christian marriage is the third witness in the angelic conflict. Christian marriage is a foundational pillar of the four divine establishments. Christian marriage is the source of strength in the Christian family, also a pillar of the divine institutions. Christian families are the ones who breed a strong society and that is what develops Nationalism - the 4th pillar of divine establishments.\

When you begin to understand these principles and doctrines, you understand why Satan and his fallen army have spread sexual immorality across the world.

Part of the invisible walls of protection within Christian marriage is the intimacy and sexuality, which was invented by God to be the monopoly of marriage.

Go into Genesis chapter two and we will note the creation of Christian marriage.

/Satan also has great pleasure and the building up of success when he can take what GOD created and manipulate or distort it in his favor. He is able to hold it up and mock GOD, or have a counterfeit that people follow so they ignore GOD. Distorting truth, covering truth, and counterfeiting truth are highly honed skill sets of Satan’s army. \

Christian marriage has always been a huge target for Satan.

The creation of the woman from the rib of the man was the creation of Christian marriage.

Gen 2:21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place.

The analogy is that, man has something missing: the rib. He gets the rib or missing piece back through marriage, through intimate fellowship with the woman.

For most people – men and women, marriage under God’s standards is a completion of HIS design.

Note that the woman came into existence while man was asleep. The woman was not created from the dust of the earth as Adam was but she was built from Adam’s rib.

Notice GOD brings the woman to the man – Adam wasn’t out at the night club looking for a woman!

The principle is carried out in marriage that the woman is a part of man and only completed in him.

[Gen 2:22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/2/22/s_2022) And the LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.

/Gen 2:22 – *“… he built a woman, and brought her to the man.”* This was so that he could name her. The woman was built to respond, she is the responder of the human race. She completes the man and the man completes the woman. Only when it is a gift from GOD under HIS authority.\

[Gen 2:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/2/23/s_2023) Then the man said, “At last
this is bone of my bones, And flesh
of my flesh; She shall be called ‘woman,’
Because she was taken out of man.”

/[Gen 2:24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/2/24/s_2024) For this reason a man shall **leave his father and his mother, and be joined**(*dāḇaq)***to his wife;** and they shall **become one flesh**.

To cleave, cling and attach to, extreme closeness, to join together in intimacy.\

DAV-OCK, has sexual or intimate connotations within it.

The husband and wife are actually called to separate from family in the sense that no one – mother or father, sister or brother, should be involved in the intimacy of that marriage.

This was God’s design for marriage. The foundational piece is intimacy and never allowing anything or anyone, outside of their relationship with the LORD to come between that sacred vow.

They are called into a sacred and private as well as extremely intimate relationship.

/[Gen 2:25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/2/25/s_2025) And the man and his wife **were both naked, but they were not ashamed**.

The nakedness was a private matter between husband and wife – it spoke to sexual and intellectual fellowship, extreme closeness. There is never shame or guilt within that which God creates.\

There is only one legitimate avenue for sexual intercourse and that is marriage.

The husband and wife can enjoy sexual pleasures how they see fit, as long as they do not involve any distortion of God’s word.

In other words, enjoy your marriage bed but do not bring in satanic influence into that bedroom.

Satanic influences which are clearly prohibited in the Bible.

/Sex outside of marriage is always classified as a sin, any sexual behaviors and deviations outside of Christian marriage fall in the category of sin. Alternative lifestyle (same sex), gender dysphoria, incest, pedophilia, pornography, prostitution, bestiality, necrophilia and any variations of these listed are called sin, in most cases it stems from demonic influence.

Lev chapter 18, Lev 20:10-23; Num 5:12-13, Deut 5:22-23, Rom 1:26-27, 1Cor 6:9, Jud 1:7, 1Tim 1:9-10 \

Many of these are easy to read and research so there truly are no excuses for the Christian marriage to fail because of sexual indiscretions.

/Any failure or struggle in the sexual arena can be washed clean and turned into a future blessing. If the Bel is willing to take responsibility and make the adjustment toward the justice of God. Good marriages take effort and above all else, Christ at the center. It is never about marrying the right person, that is secondary. It is first being the right person prepared for Christian marriage.\