

“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 mind and body.
 - b. **1st John 2:15-17**
Worldly things are perishing, but by doing *“the will of God”* we may abide forever.
2. Abstinance from sexual immorality is our *“sanctification,”* which is holiness or purification and speaks of setting apart as special.
 - a. **Romans 6:17-22**
We are either *“slaves of sin”* or *“slaves of God,”* which makes us *“slaves of righteousness for holiness,”* and the *“end”* of holiness is *“everlasting life”*
 - b. **Hebrews 12:14**
The pursuit of holiness is essential to seeing the Lord.

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**
Sexual sin is a sin against one’s own body, and one’s body is not one’s own – it is the Lord’s (18-19)! To commit sexual immorality is to deprive the Lord of righteous service. Sexual immorality is something to flee (18)!
 - c. **Genesis 39:7-12**
When Joseph was seduced, he **literally** ran away.

2. Control of one's own body is something each *"should know how"* to do. What we need is practical advice as to **how** to avoid sexual immorality.

I. ABSTAIN FROM FLATTERY

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**

Don't fall for smooth talk and don't be guilty of dishing it out.

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

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

D. **Proverbs 25:11**

Our words must be *"fitly spoken."* An insincere compliment does not qualify as fitting speech.

II. ABSTAIN FROM IMMODESTY

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

When one becomes aware of the difference between good and evil, that person understands that nakedness is inappropriate and, therefore, desires to cover it. God will determine if it is covered adequately, though.

B. **1st Timothy 2:9-10; Jeremiah 6:15**

Women should not draw undue attention to themselves by their attire. Instead, they should dress *"with propriety,"* better *"shamefacedness"* (KJV). A sense of **shame** is good for keeping out of trouble.

C. **1st Peter 3:1-4; 2nd Corinthians 11:2**

The apostle Peter mentioned “*chaste conduct*” immediately before describing how a woman should dress. This is the same adjective used by Paul to describe virginity.

D. Proverbs 7:10

If there can be such a thing as “*the attire of a harlot*,” then clothing has the power to communicate purpose. Consider: **“The girl says, ‘Oh uh-uh, wait a minute! Wait a minute! Just because I’m dressed this way does not make me a whore!’ Which is true, gentlemen, that is true. Just because they dress a certain way, doesn’t mean they are a certain way. Don’t ever forget it. But ladies, you must understand that is confusing. It just is. Now that would be like me, Dave Chappelle, the comedian, walking down the street in a cop uniform. Somebody might run up on me saying, ‘Oh, thank God. Officer, help us! Come on. They’re over here. Help us’ ‘Oh-hoh! Just because I’m dressed this way does not make me a police officer!’ See what I mean? All right, ladies, fine. You are not a whore. But you are wearing a whore’s uniform.” — Dave Chappelle**

E. Exodus 20:26

Is it possible that a person could see some part of your body you don’t intend to show them based on where or how you are sitting, standing, or walking?

F. Exodus 28:42; Nehemiah 4:18; Genesis 46:26

Priests were obligated to wear trousers that covered them from “*waist*” to “*thigh*.” The “*waist*” here refers to where a sword would be sheathed at a man’s side; thus, his hip. “*Thigh*” refers to what is sometimes translated “*loins*” and refers, in many instances, to the genitalia. So, the waist area needs to be covered.

G. Proverbs 5:18-19

A woman’s breasts are decidedly arousing. While they are not reproductive organs themselves, their purpose in nourishing young can only be brought

about through intercourse. Men do not have this function, so it is much more important for women to cover this body part than for men to do so.

H. John 21:7-8

A man may partially disrobe for work, but even swimming is not an excuse to be uncovered. Swimwear doesn't have to be indecent.

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

A man must not undress a woman with his eyes. He must not fantasize about possible encounters. He must refrain from viewing pornography.

C. Matthew 5:27-28

Sexual action and sexual desire are equally sinful to God. Such thoughts may seem harmless; it is rape in the heart.

D. Job 31:1

Make a covenant with your eyes.

IV. ABSTAIN FROM LEWDNESS

A. 1st Peter 4:3; Galatians 5:19

Lewdness is a distinct sin from lust; it is more than evil desire. Also, it is a distinct sin from fornication and adultery; it stops short of actual intercourse.

Lewdness is something between lust and fornication. It is defined as:

“indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females”

(Thayer). Indecent bodily movements include dances for men to watch and unchaste handling includes full-contact, interactive dancing, as well as groping, fondling, or feeling up.

B. Ecclesiastes 3:4; Luke 7:32; Mark 6:22

Not all dancing is the same. Tap dancing, line dancing, and square dancing are not the same as what happens at prom, homecoming, or a nightclub. Some have said that **“Dancing is the vertical expression of a horizontal desire.”** In the movie “Hitch,” Will Smith’s title character says, **“Women relate dancing to sex.”**

C. Ecclesiastes 3:5

Some hugs should be skipped.

D. 1st Thessalonians 5:26

Not all kisses are holy.

CONCLUSION

A. Song of Songs 8:4

Do not rush into romance. Be slow and deliberate.

B. 1st Corinthians 7:2

Marriage offers sexual fulfillment with God’s approval.

C. Ephesians 5:3-5

Christians should behave as Christians.