

Name: _____

Date: _____

UNDERSTANDING PURITY AND SEXUAL TEMPTATION

“For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God.” (1 Thessalonians 4:3–5)

Objectives

<i>Knowledge of God’s Will</i>	God created sexual intimacy for the purpose of marriage. The process of temptation begins in our own desires. Sexual temptation is closely tied to lust, which is a form of greed and possessive desire.
<i>Knowledge of God</i>	God is holy and wants us to be holy.
<i>Good Works</i>	Swim against the tide of this world. God’s word and the fullness of the Holy Spirit will help us to overcome our desires. Be strategic in avoiding temptation.

A. God’s Intentions: Sex Within Marriage

Within a marriage blessed by God, sex is good, pleasurable, and honorable. However, the world around us has distorted the boundaries that God intended during creation. God designed sex for marriage, but the world has twisted His intentions due to human desire.

The Importance of Purity

God’s standard for us is a pure body and a pure spirit. His standard written in the Bible has not changed and will not ever change (1 Thess 4:3–5; 1 Cor 6:19; 1 Cor 6:20; 1 Pet 1:18–19; Heb 13:4; 1 Pet 1:15–16). He loves us and wants us to be holy, because as a holy God, He cannot dwell or abide in sin.

B. The Danger of Sexual Desires

Sexual desire was made and given by God, but only for the purpose of oneness and unity within a marriage. To understand the problem and danger behind this desire, we need to understand the process of temptation according to the Bible (Judg 14:1–3):

1. Step One: Desire – Temptation begins with our own desires (Jas 1:14–15).
2. Step Two: Drawn Away – Like being lured by bait, following our desires can lead us into a trap that results only in death.
3. Step Three: Sin – After being drawn away, the temptation of desire is “conceived” and “gives birth to sin.”

Physical intimacy is something that God gave to us for us to share with our life partner, and no one else. If we fail to exert control over our desires and instead let them control us, they may lead us to sin, and from sin, to death.

C. Understanding Lust

As opposed to physical intimacy and oneness within a marriage, lust is a form of possessive desire that is fueled by greed. It is a selfish urge that focuses on pleasing oneself without considering the consequences. Feeling sexual desire is normal, but when it takes place outside of marriage, it becomes a dangerous tool of Satan’s.

Life Application

1. Swimming Against the Tide
2. Strategically Avoiding Temptation

Name: _____

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Lesson 12 Homework Assignment

Understanding Purity and Sexual Temptation

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

Memory Verse (1 Thessalonians 4:3–5):

1. What does it mean to be “sanctified”? How do we become sanctified?
2. “For you were _____ at a _____; therefore _____ God in your _____ and in your _____, which are _____.” (1 Corinthians 6:20)
3. What was God’s intention in creating sex and intimacy?
4. Why are our sexual desires so dangerous?
5. What is the difference between physical intimacy within a marriage and lust?
6. What are your personal thoughts on why it is important to stay pure, and how we can do it? Share your thoughts and reflections in two or three paragraphs. Use a separate page if necessary.