

DISCIPLINE FOR GODLINESS

DISCIPLINE OF PURITY

LESSONS FROM A FALLEN KING (continuation from last week)

THE WILL OF GOD: PURITY

Sometimes people under the Christian umbrella simply do not buy what I am saying in regard to purity. They consider such teaching to be Victorian and puritanical. Victorian it is not. Puritanical it gloriously is — for it is supremely Biblical. In answering such people, I take them to the most explicit call for sexual purity I know, [1 Thessalonians 4:3–8](#):

[1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 \(NASB\)](#)

- ³ For this is the will of God, your sanctification; *that is*, that you abstain from sexual immorality;
⁴ that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,
⁵ not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God;
⁶ and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is *the* avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you.
⁷ For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification.
⁸ So, he who rejects *this* is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.

If the reading of this passage is not convincing enough concerning the Biblical ethic, we must understand that it is based on [Leviticus 19:2](#), where God says, “**Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy**” — a command which is given in the context of warnings against sexual deviation. I also want to point out that in [1 Thessalonians](#) we are called to avoid sexual immorality and are three times called to be “**holy**.” To reject this is to sin against the Holy Spirit — the living presence of God — as the Thessalonians passage makes so clear.

As the New Testament scholar **Leon Morris** has written:

“The man who carries on an act of impurity is not simply breaking a human code, nor even sinning against the God who at some time in the past gave him the gift of the Spirit. He is sinning against the God who is present at that moment, against One who continually gives the Spirit. The impure act is an act of despite against God’s good gift at the very moment it is being proffered.... This sin is seen in its true light only when it is seen as a preference for impurity rather than a Spirit who is holy.”

Therefore, for a professed Christian to reject this teaching regarding sexual purity is to reject God, and this may indicate a false faith!