

An aerial photograph of a busy crosswalk with white stripes on a dark asphalt surface. Several pedestrians are walking across the crosswalk, and their long shadows are cast across the stripes. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

LAST DAYS LIVING

A STUDY IN I & II THESSALONIANS

**“Pleasing God with Our Purity”
(Part III)**

I THESSALONIANS 4:4-8

- 2 of the 10 Commandments address it directly: adultery (Exod 20:14) and coveting a man's wife (Exod 20:17).
- 3 other commandments include sexual purity: Commandments 1-3?
- Leviticus is filled with commands about sexual immorality: Chapters 15, 18, 20.

Personal Purity in the Bible

- Proverbs has poetic descriptions of the allure of sexual immorality (Prov 5-6).
- Jesus teaches about adultery in the heart (Matt 5:27-30).
- Romans 1 shows us a template on God giving people over to their depraved thinking.
- The Corinthian church tolerated sexual immortality (I Cor 5-6).

Personal Purity in the Bible

KEY POINT:

We please God by separating ourselves from sexual sin.

I. The Put Off (vs. 3)

II. The Put On (vs. 4-8)

A. How? (vs. 4-6a)

B. Why? (vs. 6b-8)

I. The Put Off (vs. 3)

II. The Put On (vs. 4-8)

A. How? (vs. 4-6a)

1. By Controlling Our Bodies (vs. 4)

- NASB, KJV, NKJV – “possess”
- Greek word (*ктаομαι*) means “to procure (or obtain) for oneself”
- This is about self-control, which is “the discipline of mind, heart, and life that grows when we increasingly choose to die to self and live for Christ and others.”

The Word “*Control*”

- By avoiding lust stimulators (Prov 22:3; 16:17)
- By making a commitment before the Lord to pursue purity (Job 31:1; Dan 1:8; Ps 101:3)
- By keeping your covenant with your spouse (I Tim 3:2; Prov 5:18)

How Do We Practice Self-Control?

I. The Put Off (vs. 3)

II. The Put On (vs. 4-8)

A. How? (vs. 4-6a)

1. By Controlling Our Bodies (vs. 4)
2. By Living Like You Were Delivered from Sin (vs. 5)

*Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right,
and do not go on sinning.
For some have no knowledge of God.
I say this to your shame.*

I Corinthians 15:34

⁹ Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And **such were some of you.** But **you were** washed, **you were** sanctified, **you were** justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

I Corinthians 6:9-11

“He breaks the power of canceled sin,
He sets the prisoner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean;
His blood availed for me.”

Stanza from “O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

*No temptation has overtaken you that is not common
to man.*

*God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted
beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will
also provide the way of escape,
that you may be able to endure it.*

I Corinthians 10:13

*⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and
proclaim to you, that God is light,
and in him is no darkness at all.*

*⁶ If we say we have fellowship with him while we
walk in darkness,
we lie and do not practice the truth.*

*⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light,
we have fellowship with one another,
and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us
from all sin.*

I John 1:5-7

I. The Put Off (vs. 3)

II. The Put On (vs. 4-8)

A. How? (vs. 4-6a)

1. By Controlling Our Bodies (vs. 4)
2. By Living Like You Were Delivered from Sin (vs. 5)
3. By Minding Our Relationships (vs. 6a)

“When you look at pornography, you’re not thinking about the damage you’re doing to the actors you’re watching or how you could love them and pray for them. When you look at pornography, you’re not thinking about the damage you’re doing to your spouse or children or other family members. You’re not thinking about the pain you could inflict on those who love you in your church. You’re not thinking about grieving the Holy Spirit. You’re only thinking about yourself.”



Heath Lambert
Finally Free

*But exhort one another every day,
as long as it is called “today,”
that none of you may be hardened by the
deceitfulness of sin.*

Hebrews 3:13

“when we have another Christian who has been given permission to look into our lives and question or admonish or challenge us to live according to Biblical standards”

Defining Accountability

*Whoever conceals his transgressions
will not prosper,
but he who confesses and forsakes them will
obtain mercy.*

Proverbs 28:13

I. The Put Off (vs. 3)

II. The Put On (vs. 4-8)

A. How? (vs. 4-6a)

B. Why? (vs. 6b-8)

1. To Avoid God's Judgment (vs. 6b)

“Lust isn’t that big of a deal.”	Matt 5:27-28

7 Lies That a Sexual Sinner Believes

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“No one is hurt when I fantasize sexually.”	Gal 6:7-8

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	Ps 101:3

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“A few sexual images won’t hurt me.”	Ps 101:3

7 Lies That a Sexual Sinner Believes

I. The Put Off (vs. 3)

II. The Put On (vs. 4-8)

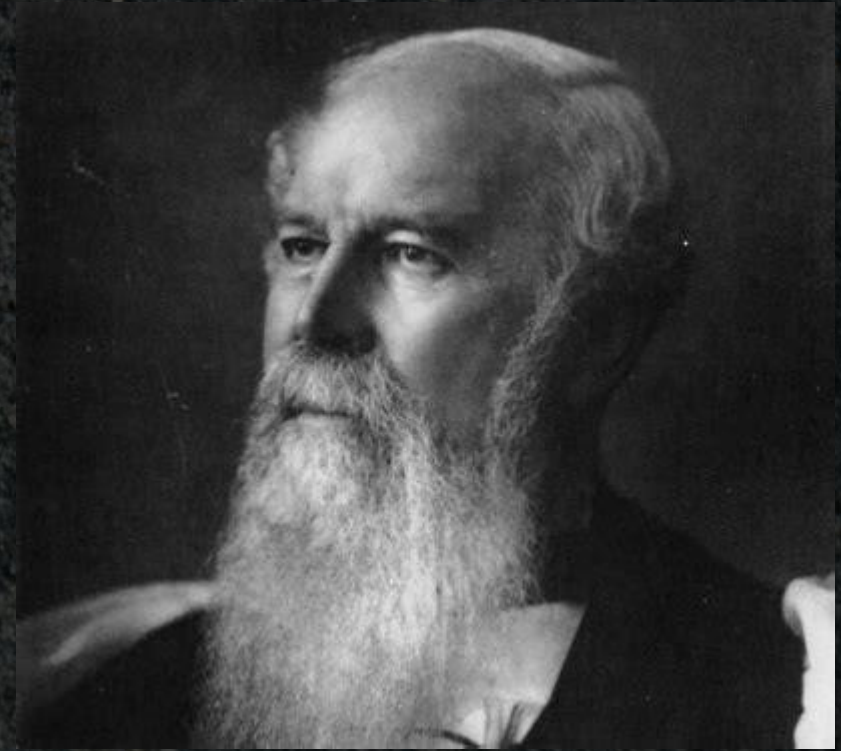
A. *How?* (vs. 4-6a)

B. *Why?* (vs. 6b-8)

1. *To Avoid God's Judgment* (vs. 6b)

2. *To Serve God's Will* (vs. 7)

True holiness “does not consist merely of inward sensations and impressions. It is much more than tears, and sighs, and bodily excitement, and a quickened pulse, and a passionate feeling of attachment to our own favorite preacher and our own religious party, and a readiness to quarrel with everyone who does not agree with us. It is something of ‘the image of Christ,’ which can be seen and observed by others in our private life, and habits, and character, and doings.”



J.C. Ryle
Holiness

I. The Put Off (vs. 3)

II. The Put On (vs. 4-8)

A. How? (vs. 4-6a)

B. Why? (vs. 6b-8)

1. To Avoid God's Judgment (vs. 6b)
2. To Serve God's Will (vs. 7)
3. To Honor God's Spirit (vs. 8)

*Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words
and blameless in your judgment.*

Psalm 51:4

*Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.*

Psalm 51:11

*And no creature is hidden from his sight,
but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of
him to whom we must give account.*

Hebrews 4:13

¹⁵ Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never!

¹⁶ Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her?

For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh."¹⁷ But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.

I Corinthians 6:15-17

¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality.

Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.

¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?

*You are not your own,
²⁰ for you were bought with a price.
So glorify God in your body.*

I Corinthians 6:18-20

*But I say, walk by the Spirit,
and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.*

Galatians 5:16

*Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God,
and God in him.*

*And by this we know that he abides in us,
by the Spirit whom he has given us.*

I John 3:24

1. Fill yourself with his Word (Matt 4:4).
2. Fill your life with his people (Col 3:16).

Two Ways to be Filled with the Spirit

*²¹ My son, do not lose sight of these—
keep sound wisdom and discretion,*

*²² and they will be life for your soul
and adornment for your neck.*

*²³ Then you will walk on your way securely,
and your foot will not stumble.*

Proverbs 3:21-23

*²⁴ If you lie down, you will not be afraid;
when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.*

*²⁵ Do not be afraid of sudden terror
or of the ruin of the wicked, when it comes,*

*²⁶ for the LORD will be your confidence
and will keep your foot from being caught.*

Proverbs 3:24-26