

SEX | LIFE

THE MYSTERIOUS CONNECTION BETWEEN
THE SEXUAL AND THE SACRED





Christian Sexuality

1 THESSALONIANS 4:3-8

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Preliminary Observations

In the sexual life there is great blessing and great brokenness.

We are all sinners.

The Christian approach is quite different from other views and practices.

The church really needs to speak up.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

“For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter,

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you."

I. God's will for us is holiness. v3a

“For this is the will of God, your sanctification...”

Holiness = set apart

II. Our holiness includes our sexual conduct. v. 3b, 4

“...that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you knows how to conduct his own body in holiness and honor...”

Sexual life includes:

Word (Ephesians 5:3)

Deed (1 Thessalonians 4:4)

Thought (Matthew 5:27, 28)

III. Our sexual conduct is motivated by five profound realities.

A. The knowledge of God v. 5

“...not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God.”

The chief end of man (Jer. 9:23, 24; I Cor. 10:31)

Our sexuality and our sexual practice reveal our theology.

His power (Gen. 1, 2)

His beauty (Gen. 1:27, 28; 2:23)

His goodness (Gen. 29:20; Ruth 4:13-17; Eph. 5:22-33)

His covenant faithfulness (Romans 1:18-32)

B. The love of neighbor v.6a

“...that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter,...”

secare = to sever, to cut off, to amputate

Sexuality is more than sex

cf. Song of Solomon



B. The love of neighbor v.6a

“...that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter,...”

Fornication and adultery = mutual theft

The Distinctives of Christian Sexuality and Sexual Practice

He has made you a sexual being in His image and He wants you to enjoy and to express your sexuality.

Your sexuality and sexual practice must always glorify God and edify your neighbor.

The Distinctives of Christian Sexuality and Sexual Practice

Your sexuality is being played out on a very large stage depicting a divine drama.

The key to sexual health is the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The only reliable guide to human sexuality and sexual practice is the Scripture.

Popular Alternative Views of Human Sexuality

(altered from Heimbach)

	Moral Authority	Purpose	Philosophy	Emphasis
Love (Romantic)	Self/Feelings	Being in Love	Romanticism	Emotional
Pleasure (Playboy)	Self/Senses	Physical Pleasure	Hedonism	Physical
Wholeness (Therapeutic)	Self-Love	Wholeness	Modernism	Psychological
Spirituality (Pagan)	Self/Spirit	Empowerment	Postmodernism	Spiritual

C. The judgement of God v. 6b

“...because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you.”

**cf. I Corinthians 6:9-11; Ephesians 5:5, 6;
Hebrews 13:4**

D. Our calling v. 7

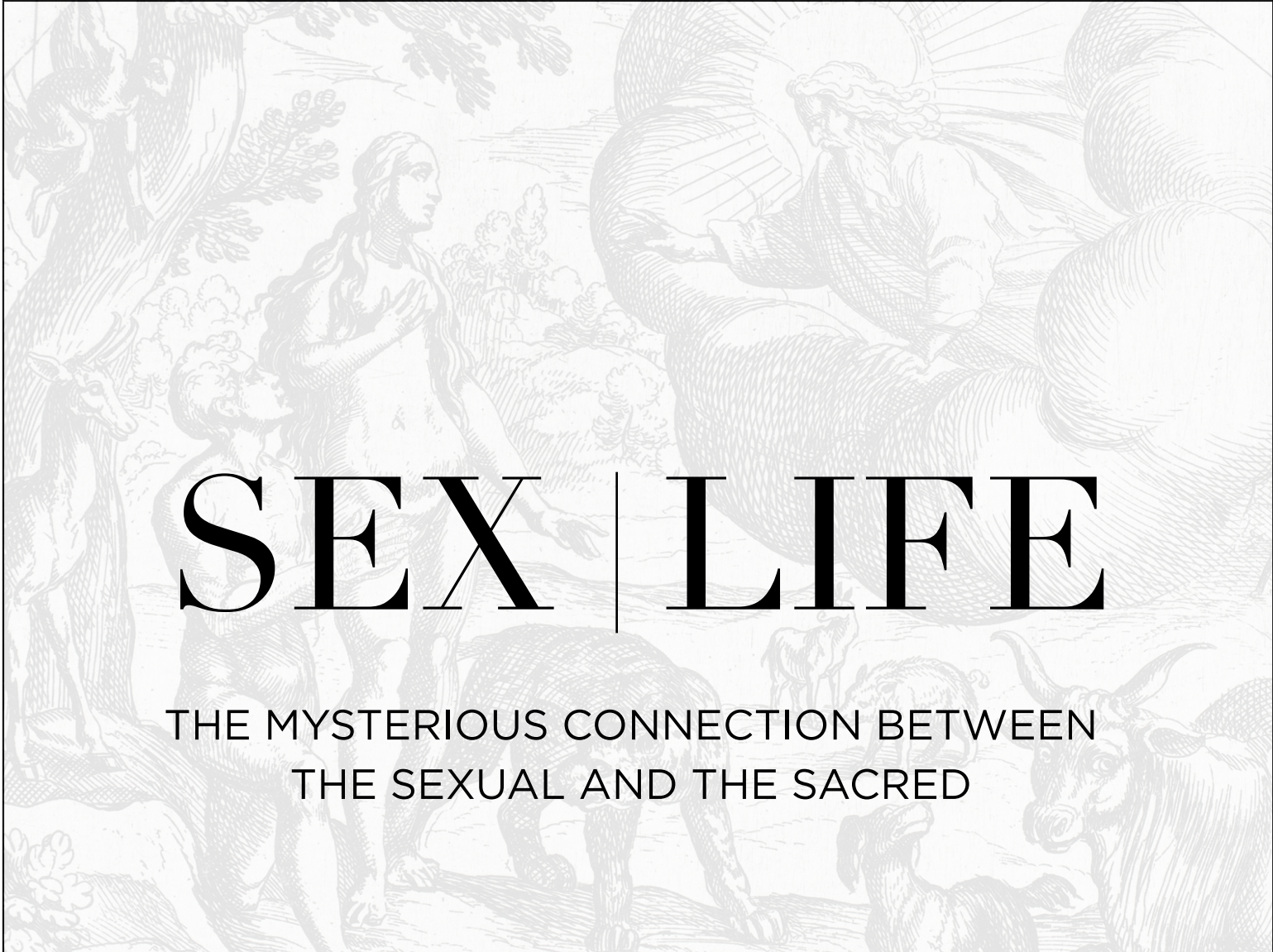
*“For God has not called us for impurity,
but in holiness...”*

cf. Mark 1:14-20; Ephesians 4:1; I Peter 2:9,10

E. The indwelling Spirit v. 8

“Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.”

cf. 1 Corinthians 6:15-20



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