

Champions/Women of Destiny

Year 2 LESSON 23



Choosing To Say “I Don’t”

Read: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

“Hi, Karen, come on in.” Karen’s heart pounded as she entered her youth pastor’s office. She wasn’t sure she wanted to keep this appointment. “Have a seat,” Pastor Bill offered.

Karen took a deep breath and began. “You know Keith and I have been dating for about a year now.” Pastor Bill nodded. “We really love each other and are planning to get married in a couple of years,” Karen explained. “Lately, though, he’s been pressuring me to show him how much I love him. He says that since we love each other, it’s OK. But I’m not sure, to be honest. And it’s getting harder and harder to say no, especially when so many of my Christian friends think it’s OK. What should I do?”

“That’s a good question, Karen. I’m glad you brought it up. Let me ask you a question before I answer yours. How interested are you in doing God’s will?”

Karen knew where Pastor Bill was going on this, but she thought for a minute. “Well,” she hesitated, “I guess I’m very interested. But Keith and I are already sure it’s God’s will that we get married.”

Pastor Bill handed her a Bible. “Let’s look at 1 Thessalonians 4:3. Would you read that verse out loud please?”

Karen looked it up and read, “For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that you should abstain from sexual immorality.”

“We need to define a couple of words. Do you know what sanctification means?” Pastor Bill asked.

Karen thought again before she answered. “I think Pastor mentioned it last Sunday in his sermon. He explained that it means being set apart to God or living a pure life-style.”

“Good. Now, do you know what fornication means?” The puzzled look on Karen’s face told him she didn’t. “The actual Greek word is *porneia* (where we get our word *porn*) which basically means anything sexually immoral like adultery, incest, having sexual intercourse outside of marriage, or anything sexual outside of what God says according to His Word. God intended, from the beginning, for sex to ONLY be between a husband and wife, a male and female who are married. So how does Paul describe God’s will?”

“He says that it is not having sex unless we are married,” Karen replied.

“You are correct,” Pastor Bill replied. “But you should also be aware that God takes this very seriously. In verse 8 of 1 Thessalonians 4 where you just read, it also says, ‘Therefore, the one who rejects this is not rejecting man, **but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.**’ Do you see how seriously God takes this? I’m pretty sure you’re not wanting to reject God with your choices, right?”

Karen replied, “Gosh, I never realized it was that serious before. I thought because so many Christians were doing it, it couldn’t be that bad. But now I see, and I DO want to follow God’s will.”

If you were Karen, how would you answer Pastor Bill’s questions?



Saving Sex For Marriage Only!

Paul taught the Thessalonian believers that God's will is saving sex for a marital relationship. First Thessalonians 4:3 is clear on this subject – no exceptions allowed.



However, this view is not a popular one today. Songs glorify all kinds of immorality. TV programs show unmarried teens and adults sleeping together as though it is the norm. Books, magazines, reality shows, talk shows and many people encourage immoral lifestyles.

But God's Word teaches you to keep your body pure for your marriage partner – or for all your life if you don't marry. Doing so pleases God and demonstrates your obedience to Him. Sexual intercourse before marriage robs (defrauds) your future mate of that special gift of purity that he or she deserves. Furthermore, it can lead to pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS, which is why abstinence never fails before marriage! None of those things can happen if you don't have sex, marry a partner that is pure, then stay faithful to each other in your marriage. Ultimately, God will judge all immorality that has not been confessed and forsaken. God's grace wipes your past clean...but it doesn't mean you won't have consequences.

Property of God

In 1 Corinthians 6:19, Paul describes your body as the temple of the Holy Spirit. God Himself lives in you if you are a Christian believer, and your body belongs to Him. He wants you to keep it pure for Him; you're not free to do anything you want with it.

Some of the Corinthians continued sinning under the excuse of freedom in Christ. They treated sex as a normal physical appetite to be fed. But God says you don't have to give in to every physical desire. Instead, He will give you the self-control you need (Gal. 5:22-23).

Plus, some of these believers didn't see anything wrong with Christians engaging in sex with prostitutes.

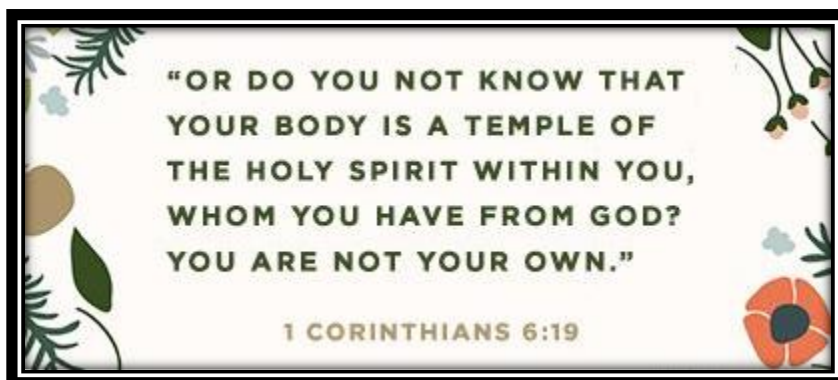


After all, Christ's death set them free from the penalty of sin. But they didn't realize that their bodies now were God's dwelling (living) place. Paul was shocked that the Corinthians could even think of uniting God's dwelling place with someone who used sex outside of marriage. Their bodies belonged to the Lord and were to be used for worshipping Him, not for self-indulgence.



On the other hand, sex is not evil. Within the commitment and security of marriage, it is good and enjoyable; after all, God created sex. But He wants you to follow **His guidelines** for its use so you don't get hurt and hurt others.

Memory Verse



Living Out The Lesson

Champions and Women of Destiny, our world is full of sexual temptations, but no one **has** to give in to them. Here are some practical ways to help you say NO!

- There is always a way out. (1 Cor. 10:13)
- Walk-or run-away from the situation. (2 Tim. 2:22)
- Avoid situations that tempt you, such as sitting in a car with someone alone or watching TV shows and movies with sexual content, including jokes.
- Choose friends who share your standards.
- Pray daily for God's strength to obey Him.
- Determine specific standards for dating and time limits (no ringy no dingy).



If you have already gone too far or participated in sexual immorality in any way:

- *Read Psalm 51 and make David's prayer your own.*
- *Confess your sin to God (1 John 1:9)*
- *End the relationship for a period of time, if not permanently. You can't be "just friends" at this point.*
- *Accept God's forgiveness. Don't let Satan defeat you again with false guilt.*

Now watch this Supplemental Video about your lesson:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BdR8o7BqDR8>

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LESSON 23 Review Quiz



Click here if you are taking your quiz online, then send the email you receive to your mentor to grade and discuss: <https://forms.gle/Cykpqsrz2PaCSy pb9>

Student name _____
(PRINT CLEARLY)

1. True/False. It's OK to engage in sex before marriage if you and your boyfriend or girlfriend really love each other.
2. Which TV shows, movies, books, magazines, and/or songs should you avoid because they promote and approve of sexual immorality?
3. Why should you save sex for marriage?
4. Fill in the Blanks. For this is the will of God, even your _____ that you should abstain from _____. (1 Thess. 4:3)
5. Define fornication.
6. What does sanctification mean?
7. Fill in the Blank. Your body belongs to _____.
8. True/False. The Holy Spirit helps you live a pure life.
9. How does fornication defraud (rob, cheat, take advantage of) your future husband or wife?
10. True/False. God does not forgive sexual sin.