

Pastor Nelson- The Coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Theme: How the church was sanctified

In verse three speaks about the way to please God is to do the will of God., and his will is our Sanctification.

Sanctification means to be set apart from the world and be consecrated to God. It has four elements:

1. Abstinence as God plans is to have sex in the right time, place and with the right person (Hebrews 13:4), but the enemy had corrupted it.
 - a. Fornication - sex between two unmarried people.
 - b. Adultery - sex between married people with someone other than their spouse.
2. Faithfulness in Marriage (Hebrew 13:4 - each man should help keep his wife in sanctity.) Marital love should mature and remain faithful to the views made before God at the altar. Physical attraction wanes as intimacy increases, and the couple learns to truly love each other. There's also healing and restoration after failure in marriage, but the Bible does justify divorce in cases of infidelity.
3. Control for lustful passions (Hebrew 13:5- passionate lists of the unbelievers)
 - a. Risk of/and exposure to over 70 different STDs that exist today.
 - b. You sleep with everyone that the other person has slept with.
 - c. Spiritually connected to that person even during casual sex.
 - d. In 1 Corinthian: 6 speaks of certain groups of people that will not inherit the kingdom of God, this includes fornicators!
4. Avoid deceit and wrongful doing toward our brothers and sisters (Hebrew 13:6) Let's not be obstacles for the Holy Spirit. Allow him to do His job of sanctifying others. However, when we overcome, or victory will minister to others who go through it. The bible says that Joseph was tested by Potiphar's wife, but he became overcome his temptation and was rewarded as one of bible's great leader. From this we learn that in order to minister to others we must first overcome and allow the Holy Spirit to sanctify us so when he returns he will find his sanctified and holy church.