

# SERMON TRANSCRIPT

DATE

June 26, 2022

SPEAKER

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SERIES

People Of The Kingdom

PART

6

TITLE

Persevering In Purity

SCRIPTURE

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8



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Well, good morning, Providence family. And let me tell you what an honor it is to be with you. As Dave mentioned ago, there's a great relationship and partnership in the gospel between Providence Baptist church and Southeastern seminary. And I think one of the reasons is that the great commission is so much a priority, both at Southeastern here at this church.

A couple of years ago, the International Mission Board released a report and they noted the 10 largest sending S-E-N-D-I-N-G churches in the Southern Baptists convention in terms of churches that send missionaries to the national mission field. And five of the 10 were within 20 miles of Southeastern Seminary. And one of the top five was Providence Baptist church. And so I rejoice in the fact that you have, as you saw earlier, such a heartbeat for the nations. And I think that's why we have against such a wonderful, wonderful relationship.

So thank you for loving us and praying for us and serving so many of our staff and students so wonderfully well. I want to invite you this morning to join me in 1 Thessalonian chapter four. We're going to give our attention to verses one through eight. And this is a passage that I wish I had listened to when I was a teenager and a young college student. I'm not denying that my pastor may have preached from it, but sometimes pastors preach and we don't listen. And this is the kind of passage I wish I had heard and that I had listened to during those very formative years.

The title of the message is a passion to be like Jesus. And here's what we read in God's word beginning in 1 Thessalonians chapter 4:1. Finally, then brothers we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus that as you receive from us, how you ought to walk and to please God just as you are doing that, you do so more and more for you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus for this is the will of God.

Your sanctification, that is that you abstain from sexual immorality. That each one of you knows 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 transgressed and wrong his brother in this matter 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 to impurity but in holiness. Therefore, whoever disregards this disregards not man but God who gives his holy spirit.

One of the most often questions I have been asked throughout my 40 plus years of ministry, is this. How can I know the will of God? And I think many of us have the mistaken idea that when it comes to the will of God, that God plays hide and go seek. He tucked it away and hides it somewhere really good and as hard as we try, we cannot find it. And so we go through life somewhat frustrated that I could not find or I cannot find God's will for my life.

But actually when you come to the Bible, you discover that God has a lot to say about his will. And really it's not that difficult to find it all. In fact, in Romans chapter 12 versus one and two, Paul says that we are to dedicate and commit our lives as living sacrifices, which is an act of holy worship. And then he tells us that we're not to be conformed to the world but be transformed by the renewing of our minds that we might then

discover the good, the acceptable and the perfect will of God. So Paul says, give your life in radical concentration and you'll discover the good, acceptable and perfect will of God.

And yet added to that. There are many times in the Bible where God is very clear and very directed toward helping us understand exactly what his will is for our lives. For example, in Ephesians 5:18, it is God's will that we be filled with the holy spirit. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 teaches us that it is God's will that we would be thankful. 1 Timothy 2:4, it is God's will that everyone would be saved. 1 Peter 2:13-15. It is God's will that you have a good testimony to the loss, to those outside of the church. And in 1 Peter 17-18, it is God's will that you suffer for living righteous lives. And in our text this morning, 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 we also learned that it is God's will that we are sanctified holy verse three.

It is God's will that we abstain from sexual immorality verse three. It is God's will that we know how to control our bodies in holding this in honor, verse four. And it is God's will that we do not wrong others in our sexual conduct, verse six. So what we actually see is God has a lot to say about his will for our lives, but you know what? I believe we can take everything I just said and boil it down to this. It is God's will for you and me that we would have a passion to be like Jesus. It is God's will for every one of his children that we would have a passion to be like Jesus. This passage before us is going to get us down the road in understanding exactly what that looks like. Now, let's put it in context. Paul has just prayed for the Thessalonians at the end of chapter three.

And he prayed there in verse 13, that God would establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and father at the coming of our Lord Jesus, with all his saints literally with all his holy ones. Now, I'm not picking on the Roman Catholics this morning, but they've got it wrong when it comes to this idea of sainthood. They think that sainthood is reserved for a special few, but when you come to the Bible, you discover that every child of God is a Saint.

And so this morning you're going to hear a message from Saint Danny. And so I just want you to know improper perspective what's happening today. Now, there are three things I want us to see from this text this morning that helps us understand how it is that we can indeed have this passion to be like Jesus. Number one, we should strive to please the Lord verse one and verse two. Benjamin Franklin wisely wrote tart words make no friends. A spoon full of honey will catch more flies than a gallon of vinegar.

And I believe the apostle Paul agreed with him. And so as he begins to lay the foundation for some very strong statements, he comes alongside of Thessalonians and in essence says in a kind and gentle way, let me urge you and encourage you to go in this particular direction. Now, what he tells us, first of all in verse one is that he prays and hopes that we will walk like Jesus. Look at it verse one, finally, additionally brothers and sisters, we ask number one and we urge or encourage you and we do so in the common relationship that we share with the Lord Jesus. Paul was an apostle. Paul could have gotten in the face of the Thessalonians but he doesn't do that. Paul comes up alongside of them if you like puts his arm around them and says, "I want

to urge you. I want to ask you, I want to encourage you to go in a different direction or to in this case keep walking in the direction that you're going and I do so because of our common relationship with the Lord, Jesus Christ."

And specifically, what does he say? "Well, as you receive from us, how you ought to walk I'm not giving you anything new. I taught you this when I was there when I founded the church. So no new lesson here, but as you walk and as you receive from us, how you ought to walk and to please God just as you are doing that, you do so more and more." In other words, Paul says, "Look, I'm encouraged by the direction you're going. I'm encouraged by the way you are living for Christ. And so I'm not adding anything that I previously told you, but I will tell you this don't be satisfied where you are. Don't become complacent where you are, press on, keep growing, do more and more of what you're already doing."

I appreciate so very much, Dave earlier referring to the wonderful event that took place on Friday with the overturning of Roe V Wade and Casey. But folks that is just one step in the battle. We're far from being where we need to be. And as we move forward here in particular, our state of North Carolina, there are two battle fronts that we must engage lovingly, winsomely but with conviction. On the one hand, there are laws that need to be changed.

North Carolina still has virtually no restrictions on abortion, none. And so there's much that needs to be done in the legislative arena. I'll just put my cards on the table. I have voted in every single election since I turned 18, I have never ever voted for a pro-choice candidate nor would I. I have that strong of a conviction about the sanctity of life in guiding me to vote according to my conscience and in concert with what I believe the Bible teaches at the same time.

There's another arena that we must engage. And that is the arena of ministry to those who have unexpected and unwanted pregnancies. The vast majority of women who choose to have an abortion number one are very, very poor economically. And usually they've been abandoned by the father of their child. Listen folks most of us in this room don't fall into that category. We're not among the poverty stricken and we need to remind ourselves, God does not bless us as an end of itself. God blesses us to be a blessing to others. And I'm not doing this, but my wife and I married at 21 and 19 for 44 years, we have not only prayed, we have financially given to try to minister to those who have unwanted pregnancies through various pregnancy crisis centers. And so there's a twofold avenue that we attack. And I think Paul would say to us in this area, as well as many others, you've been walking in the right direction, you've been doing good things, but don't stop.

Add to what you have been doing and do even more and more as you walk like the Lord Jesus. But then secondly, Paul tells us to listen to the Lord Jesus. He tells us there in verse two, really what builds on verse one. Verse one told us what to do, verse two now focuses on what we are to know is a very simple statement for you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. In other words, Paul said, when I came and

taught you these things, now this wasn't man's teaching, this was God's. This was not from a human authority, it was from a divine authority, the master himself. And I want to tell you something when Jesus speaks, we ought to listen because no one obeyed the father and no one honored the father like Jesus. In fact, in John 8:29, the Bible says of the Lord Jesus speaking, I always do the things that are pleasing to him.

And so we want to be like the Lord Jesus having one holy ambition that simply says this ultimately in life, ultimately in life, all that matters is I please God. Many of us are frustrated in our lives because we're always trying to please everybody. And that's such a foolish thing to do. Number one, you can't please everybody and number two, everybody doesn't matter only one matters and his name is Jesus. And so if you will make it your holy ambition to walk like Jesus and to listen to Jesus and to please Jesus, you will live a life that pleases God. So we want to strive to please the Lord.

But number two, we also want to let the will of God be our guide. The apostle Paul is going to get very specific now when it comes to God's will and in particular he is going to talk at some link about the idea of holiness. Now, some form of the word holiness is the Greek word *hagios* occurs three times in our text. Now, we already saw it back in 3:13. But where you see in verse three, this is the will of God, your sanctification. It could be translated, your holiness. And then he talks about in verse four, that we are to control our bodies in holiness.

And then in verse seven for God has not called us for impurity, but God has called us in holiness. So what is the will of God that needs to guide you and me this morning, three aspects are noted in verses three through seven. Number one, as we just said, God wants us to be holy. Paul is direct. And to the point in verse three, this is the will of God, your sanctification, your holiness. He says in verse four I just read, God wants us to control our own body in holiness.

He adds in verse seven, God has not called us for impurity but in holiness. Now, I want to step for a moment out of the pulpit and move you into the seminary classroom and the doctrine of systematic theology. And in particular, I want us to investigate for a moment this idea of holiness and for several reasons. Number one, most of the time when people use the word holy or holiness, at least in our culture, it has a negative connotation. Oh yeah. You're a Pharisee. Oh yeah. You're a Puritan. Oh yeah. You've got a bunch of rules and regulations that you follow and that you match up to and you think you're superior to me. And all of that is foreign and incorrect when it comes to what the Bible actually says about holiness. So let me take a moment and unwrap this for you. Watch it on the screen with me.

The word holiness or sanctification simply means to be separated. That's what the word means. Biblically, it means this. When God saves us and makes us a new creation in Christ 2 Corinthians 5:17. We are now to be separated from sin on the one hand, but separated to the savior on the other and brothers and sisters the Bible has a lot to say about holiness. In Leviticus 19:2 God said to Israel, "You should be holy for I the Lord your God am holy." Paul [inaudible 00:16:58] Leviticus 11:44 and 1 Peter chapter 1. And he says, "As he who

called you as holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written you shall be holy for, I am holy.' In 1 Thessalonians chapter five, you'll get there in a few weeks. Paul adds now may the God of peace himself sanctify, make you holy completely and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful who also will do it.

Now, let me give you a very simple but practical strategy for how you and I can pursue holiness. In John chapter 17, we have what is called Jesus' high priestly prayer. It's the night in which he is betrayed and he prays to his heavenly father for you and for me. And in John 17:17, Jesus prays this prayer. Sanctify them, make them holy in the truth, your word is truth. And what Jesus is simply telling us is this. If you're going to live a holy life, a life separated from sin and separated under Jesus, a life that is growing more and more to look like Jesus, you have got to bathe your life both in truth and in the word of God. If you're not walking in the truth, you can't be holy.

And if you're not immersing yourself in the word of God, you can not be holy. J R Packer, the wonderful Anglican theologian says it so beautifully. By the way, I got this from his book, Knowing God, everybody ought to read that book. It is a classic. It will not only enlighten your mind. It will also feed your soul. And this is what J R Packer said. Jesus died in order that we may be justified. We are justified in order that we may be sanctified and made holy.

At its core, holiness is knowing the fullness of life with God. It is a matter of seeking to imitate Jesus' way of behaving through depending on Jesus for deliverance, from carnal self absorption. There is no holiness without a Christ-centered, Christ seeking, Christ serving, Christ adoring heart. And you see this is the life Jesus lived, this is the life he wants us to live and this is the life he enables us to live both through his truth and his word. And as we will see in a moment in verse eight, by the internal presence of the holy spirit in every one of us.

So God wants us to be holy, but secondly, God wants us to avoid sexual immorality. Paul now applies God's design and desires for our holiness to our sex lives. Now let me lay a basic biblical truth out there. Sex is a good gift from a great God and God gave us this good gift for a number of very good reasons. He gave it to us for our protection. He gave it to us for pleasure. He gave it to us for procreation. He gave it to us for partnership, and he gave it to us for purity to be lived out within the context of marriage between a man and a woman.

So let me say it again. I know it's on the screen. Sex is a good gift from a great God designed for our protection, pleasure, procreation, partnership, and purity, but this good gift is a powerful gift. This good gift is a dangerous gift and therefore we must handle it wisely with care. And also as Paul is teaching us in holding us. So Paul, once again is very direct in his instruction. Verse three, abstain from sexual immorality, abstain from porneia is the Greek word porneia. We got our English word pornography from it. And the Bible says we are to abstain from it. In 1 Corinthians chapter 6:18, Paul is even stronger, flee sexual immorality. Flee

sexual immorality. Now this begs a question. What exactly does the Bible mean by sexual immorality? By porneia?

Well, the brilliant Testament scholar, Gordon Fee says that sexuality covers every kind of sexual sin. Okay. That's helpful, but not really. So let me see if I can go a little further. If you examine the Bible and in particular you look at every time the word Porneia or the words sexual immorality occur, you can begin to build a theology that would teach you this. Porneia or sexuality would include premarital sex, what the Bible cause in some of the older translations fornication. It would include extra marital sex, what we refer to as adultery and it also includes unnatural sex what we would recognize in the Bible as homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, transgenderism, all of that falls under the category of sexual immorality.

But let me say it in a positive way. Anything outside the covenant marriage relationship between a man and a woman will fall under the category of sexual immorality. But that also means any type of sexual behavior within the covenant relationship of marriage that is both pleasing and desirable by both mates, God says have a wonderful time because sex is my good gift to be enjoyed maximally within the covenant relationship of marriage.

Now, Paul provides for us some direction as to how we can indeed abstain and flee from sexual morality. And he does so in verse four and verse five. First Paul writes each one of you married and single male and female each one of you needs to know how to control his own body. Now, that's how the ESV translates it. But if you were to take for example the New American Standard version, it actually gives you the literal Greek word and it is the word vessel, vessel V-E-S-S-E-L. And so Paul literally says that we need to know how to control our own vessel, which then begs a question. What does Paul mean by the word vessel? And there are basically three ideas that are prominent among students of the Bible.

Number one, some people say he is talking about your mate in this context, a man's wife. So a man needs to know how to both acquire and care well for a wife. Secondly, some now believe is becoming a more popular view that Paul is talking about those most intimate parts of a human body. And so he is talking about and using the word vessel in that way. But the third view, which is the view of the ESV of the Christian standard Bible and the NIV and the view that I believe is the better understanding is the word body. And Paul is saying, you need to know how to control well your own body.

Now, stay with me by way of application all three of those views are true. In other words, let's start backwards. I need to know how to control well my body. All of me, not just this physical thing but by body the Bible means all of me. So what does that mean? Well, it means number one, I need to know how to care well for my wife, for my mate. Secondly, I need to know how to care well and control my own bodily and sexual drives and urges.

And then therefore I bring everything about me under the mastery of the Lordship of Jesus Christ. And

what does Paul mean by controlling well your body? Well, he tells you, you need to control your own body in number one, holiness and number two in honor. The word means dignity or in a respectful kind of a way. You want to control this vessel, this body that God gave you in a way that honors God and in a way that promotes holiness.

Now to drive home his point, Paul gives a striking contrast in verse five. Yes we are to control our own bodies in holiness and honor and not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles, here the word Gentiles means the lost, who do not know God. Here's Paul's argument. We're not animals. We're not animals. We can control our urges. And so we're not animals. Number one, every one of us is made in the image of God. Number two, for those of us who have trusted Christ, we're now new creations in Christ and so we have the God given ability to take mastery over our bodies and their drives and their urges.

Paul says, listen, God, in verse seven, he adds has not called us for impurity, but God has called us in holiness. And so God wants us to understand this. I love to say it this way. Sanctified sex is good and God's desire for our lives. Sanctified sex between a man and a woman within the covenant of marriage is God's desire for our lives. And God wants us to avoid sexual immorality.

Number three, God wants us to honor our brothers and sisters. Paul is going to connect the principle of abstaining from sexual immorality to the love of our neighbor. And he will also in verse six attach a very strong warning. He tells us, "Control your own bodies in holiness and honor not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God that in order that number one, no one transgress and number two, no one wrongs his brother in this matter."

What's Paul saying? Paul is saying this. When you engage in sex immorality, you're a thief. You're a thief. You are stealing and taking something from somebody that does not belong to you. You're a thief. Secondly, you are violating the golden rule where the Bible says, whatever you wish that others would do to you do also to them. Furthermore, you are violating the second great commandment where the Bible says, you shall love your neighbor as yourself.

And Paul says, such activity has grave consequences for the way you treat other people but even worse. It is a very very sin against God. He says, there in verse six. The Lord is an Avenger, a judge in all these things, as we told you beforehand, and as we solemnly warned you. In other words, God does not wink at sexual sin. God does not look at sexual sin and say, "Oh, it's just an affair. Oh, it's just friends with benefits." No, God takes sexual sin very, very, very seriously. Now, you may be here this morning. You say, "Well, Danny too late. Too late. I've got a track record that is in God's way of seeing things, horrible, terrible. There's no way that I have any hope." And that's where you are dead wrong because I don't care what you've done, I don't care how many times you've done it. The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin.

That's why I said earlier I wish to God I had listened to this message when I was a teenager and nearly a young



adult, because I need to know that there is forgiveness, no matter what we may have done. And if you're here today and maybe you're not even a Christian, I'm telling you that there is full and complete forgiveness for every sin you've ever committed through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. And then the wonderful news is he now is going to indwell you with his holy spirit and give you the ability moving forward to live exactly the kind of life number one, he created you to live and number two, he saved you to live. And so the Bible says, "Yes, God takes this type of sin very seriously, but it is not unforgivable."

Number three, the Bible also tells us we need to pay attention to the voice of the Holy Spirit. It's interesting to note that Paul talking very practically in these verses wraps his argument in the triune God. You say how so? Well, he refers to the Lord, the Lord Jesus in verse five, he refers to God, God the father in verse seven and verse eight. And then he concludes verse eight with a reference to the Holy Spirit. And basically he is saying, listen, the triune God is on your side. When it comes to holiness. The Triune, God is on your side in giving you the ability to live a sex life that honors him and pleases him. And so there are two things he says very quickly in verse eight, number one, don't disregard the Lord's instruction. Don't disregard the Lord's instructions.

Verse eight. Therefore, whoever disregards this disregards not man but God. In other words, if you look at these verses and say, "You know what? I know what God says about how I should live my life in terms of sex and I don't care." You're not disagreeing with Danny Aiken. That doesn't matter at all. You're actually disregarding and dissing God who's spoken very clearly about the matter. But secondly, do depend on the holy spirit directions. He says, therefore, whoever disregards this disregards not man but God who gives us his holy spirit. And what's Paul's point. You can't live a sexually pure life on your own. It's not in you. It's not in me. Left to yourself you'll maybe do all right for a while, but you'll fail and some of us will fail miserably over and over and over. God knows that. So what did God do when he saved you?

He gave you a divine helper. And that divine helper is the Holy Spirit who lives inside of you. And I love the way Chuck Swindall says it. God is God. And he could live anywhere he wants to. But God in amazing grace chose to live inside of you and inside of me because he loves us and because he wants to help us become more like Jesus. So I want to close this morning, very practically. I've had the joy now for almost 30 years of speaking to married couples about how to have a marriage that honors God and will be a blessing to them.

And one of the things I believe that smart people do when it comes to marriage is they put in place what I call parameters or if you like fences that will guard and protect them from getting out here where you don't belong or up here where you don't belong or over here or down here. How can I stay within some healthy guidelines and parameters that will allow me to live a life that pleases God and live a life that will also be a blessing to my mate.

Now, I know that everybody here this morning is not married, but the odds are, if you're not married someday, you're going to be married. And furthermore, there's some good things here even right now where

you are as a single, that I believe would be good counsel for you to think about as we bring this message to an end. So very quickly, I'm going to walk you through what I call the 12 warning signs of infidelity.

Number one, a feeling of going through the marriage motions. Your marriage is boring. Now, your marriage is dull and you deceive yourself into thinking, well, I'm not happy and I have the right to be happy. And you start thinking about walking out of your marriage. I cannot tell you how many times over the years I've counseled a man or a woman that's going through difficulty in their marriage and they will say something like, I'm not sure I love them anymore. I'm just not happy and brother, Danny, Dr. Akin, I have the right to be happy.

And I try to be kind, but I also kind of give it to him too. And I say, well, let me just be honest with you. Number one, you don't have the right to be happy. That's not in the Bible. Sorry. People say, doesn't the Bible say, well, I tell you what, here's my book. You go find the chapter and the verse and come back when you have. You won't be coming back. The number one, the Bible does not say you have the right to be happy. The Bible says you have a responsibility to be holy and to be obedient. But then I always say this too. You know what? Maybe your marriage is dull and boring, but you know what? Maybe you ought to go home and look in the mirror because it may be the fault is yours.

Now, I know you want to blame everything on your mate but a lot of times the fault of a boring dull marriage is both. And I can't talk to your mate. He or she ain't here. I know that's bad grammar, but they ain't here. But you are. So I just encourage you to maybe do a little self check and see if maybe you might be the problem. Number two, inventing excuses to visit someone of the opposite sex. Number three, increasing male, female contacts in normal environments, like where you work, sharing a meal where you work out, where you work, out of work out and church. By the way, the two great breeding grounds today for immorality number one, the workplace, number two, the internet. Number one, the workplace and number two, the internet. Those are the two great breeding grounds for sexual immorality.

Number four, being preoccupied with thoughts about another person something only God and you may know. Some people even in the church are really good liars. I had a friend, still a friend when I was at another school, he was on our faculty and we became aware of the fact that he was downloading internet pornography. And by the way, this is for free, sin makes you stupid. Do you all know that? Sin doesn't make you smarter. Sin makes you stupid. And here's a brilliant PhD who knows that we monitor all the computers, it's our computer and he's downloading pornography. Sin makes you stupid. So I brought him into my office and he did not deny it. Very contrite, very embarrassed. And as we were talking through it, I said to him, "Well, how does your wife feel about this?"

And he looked at me and he said, "She doesn't know." Now they've been married for over 40 years. And I said, "I don't believe you." And he looked at me and with no arrogance, but just simply said, "Dr. Aiken. I'm a very good liar. She doesn't know." And you know what? There may be some people in here this morning that are

good liars. Let me tell you something. God knows and you know, if you're giving somebody what I call too much mine time between your ears.

Number five, exchanging of gifts with a friend of the opposite sex. Now, I'm not against giving gifts to people of the opposite sex but I don't buy them for any women. You say what? No. I've never bought a gift for a secretary in 44 years of being married. Well, I bet your secretaries hate your guts. No, I think Kim and Kimberly liked me pretty well. They say they do. I don't think they're lying. You say so Secretaries Day they get nothing, birthday they get nothing, Christmas they get nothing. I didn't say that. I said I don't buy it.

What I do is I give my credit card to my wife. Well, she doesn't need it because she's got it. In fact, she's got all of them, but anyway it's another sermon for another day, but she goes and she picks out their gift. She takes it to the office and gives it to them from Charlotte and Danny. And then she takes them out to a place called the Tea Room to have lunch, which I'm not about to go to a place called the Tea Room because I'm, I'm not secure enough in my manhood had yet to do that. But that's what she does.

And they know that I participated in it and they know I love them dearly, but no one thinks, well, he gives a lot of time and forethought to buying gifts for women that are not his wife, his daughter-in-laws are his granddaughters. No, I've never bought a gift for a female outside of those particular ones. And I'm never going to because I don't need to be giving that kind of thought to a person that's not my wife. I live with that. You can fuss about it. I don't care.

Number six, making daily weekly contact with someone of the opposite sex by phone. I don't think I've talked to a woman on the phone for more than five minutes in the last 44 years other than my wife Charlotte. I don't have the need to. I don't have the need to. Number seven, putting yourself in a situation where a friend or employee might become more.

Number eight, having to touch, embrace or glance at a person of the opposite sex. Now I'm a huggy person. I like to hug, but I know where my hands belong and where they don't belong. I know how to hug another person and not hug another person. Number nine, spending time alone with anyone of the opposite sex. This is the Billy Graham rule. By the way, I didn't know it was the Billy Graham rule, but when I married Charlotte on May the 27th, 1978 in Atlanta, Georgia, I made a commitment to her I've honored all these years. And that commitment was I'll never be alone again with a woman other than you. And I've honored that commitment for 44 years. Dr. Graham honored that commitment to the day that Ruth died. Now, you can accuse Dr. Graham and Danny Aiken of being an Neanderthal of being a chauvinist, being hung up in the area of sexual issues but one thing you cannot accuse either one of us is adultery.

Because adultery takes place as I will so show in just a moment when you're at the wrong place at the wrong time, with the wrong person, that's when adultery takes place. And so I want to finish my race having been

faithful to my wife. And so you can call me a Neanderthal, a chauvinist all you want. I don't care.

Number 10, inordinate time on the internet. This means pornography for some and unhealthy relationships for others. Number 11, this magical formula, the wrong person plus the wrong place plus the wrong time will equal the wrong thing happening. And then number 12, forgetting the sobering truth that even though King David was a man after God's own heart he lied. He committed adultery and he murdered. And folks, I'm not so arrogant as to say to you this morning, I think I love God more than David. I would not say that. And what I know is if it could happen to King David, it could happen to me and I want to finished my life in a way that honors the Lord Jesus, it blesses my wife that does not lose the respect of my sons and my grandchildren. The price is too high for just a few moments of carnal pleasure. And so you have a passion to be like Jesus and you will also live a Godly holy life that pleases him.

Let's pray. Heavenly father, thank you so much for the wisdom of your word. We thank you that not only do you teach us how to live, but you give us your spirit to enable us to do it. And Lord, we acknowledge in our own strength we could never be like this, but Lord, you make it possible in us to live the life that you want us to live.

And Lord, we do it in the strength of your word and the power of your spirit. So Lord, may we live lives that are holy and Christ honoring. Not so that we can say, look at me, look at how one, no, no, no, no. We're just sinners saved by grace being conformed day by day, to be more like Jesus through your work in our hearts and lives all for your glory. But yes, Lord also for our good. And we thank you that you promise you will complete it on the day that you come again even so then come soon Lord Jesus, we pray this in your name. Amen.



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