

Don't Just Stand There- Run!, Part 1
1 Thessalonians 4:1-5
The Foundations of our Faith, part 13

- During Paul's brief visit lasting just a few weeks, the Thessalonians learned more about pleasing God than they had in their entire previous life before they came to Christ.
- Paul clearly writes that they were to abstain from fornication, v.3.
- "Fornication" is a general word, relating to any kind of sexual activity outside of heterosexual marriage.
- Sexual activity outside of marriage, then and now, is accepted, approved, and even encouraged in the world.
- Let's look at the positive and negative consequences that make abstaining from fornication absolutely good and right:

1. Positive Reasons for Abstaining from Fornication v.3-4

- There are very positive consequences for abstaining from fornication. Abstaining from fornication is vital to:
 - A. Pleasing God, v.1
 - B. Obeying God, v.2:
 - C. Doing God's Will, v.3
 - D. Honoring my Body, v.4

2. Negative Reasons for Abstaining from Fornication, v.5

- There are some very bad consequences for committing fornication. Proverbs 6:24-35 gives us nine reasons to run from lust:
 - A. Evil: You'll embrace wickedness, v.24.
 - B. Poverty: You'll end up poor, v.26
 - C. Burned: You'll never get away with it, v.27-29
 - D. Hated: You'll be despised, v.30-31

- E. Foolishness: You'll lack wisdom, v.32a
- F. Destruction: You'll destroy yourself, v.32b
- G. Wounds: You'll be plagued with consuming disease, v.33; Prov. 5:11
- H. Shame and disgrace: You'll lose your honor, v.33
- I. Revenge: You'll face the rage of man, v.34