

1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-8

GOD'S WILL FOR YOU -

YOUR SANCTIFICATION

Living Holy Lives—

ABSTAINING
FROM SEXUAL
IMMORALITY



LIVING HOLY LIVES

- ▶ Thessalonica is a seaport located at the head of the Themaic Gulf in Macedonia, and was on the well traveled Egnatian Way.
- ▶ The largest city of Macedonia, with a population of ca. 200,000, The city was affectionately called the "mother of all Macedon."
- ▶ It had been granted the status of a free city.
- ▶ A grossly immoral city (1:9).



1 THESSALONIANS 4:1–8 (NKJV)

¹ Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God; ² for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus. ³ For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;

1 THESSALONIANS 4:1–8 (NKJV)

⁴ that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, ⁵ not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; ⁶ that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord *is* the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:1–8 (NKJV)

⁷ For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. ⁸ Therefore he who rejects *this* does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

THE COMMAND TO LISTEN / OBEY / PLEASE GOD

¹ Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God; ² for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

- ▶ Christians, those in Christ, need this warning - (1); 1 Cor 6:9-11; 10:1-13; Hebrews 3:1-14; Gal 5:1-4, 19-21
- ▶ The need to grow & progress, (1) - 2 Pet 1:5-10; 3:14-18
- ▶ God's will knowable & doable - (1,2) - Eph 5:14; 1 John 5:1-4; Rom 12:1-3

THE COMMAND TO LISTEN / OBEY / PLEASE GOD

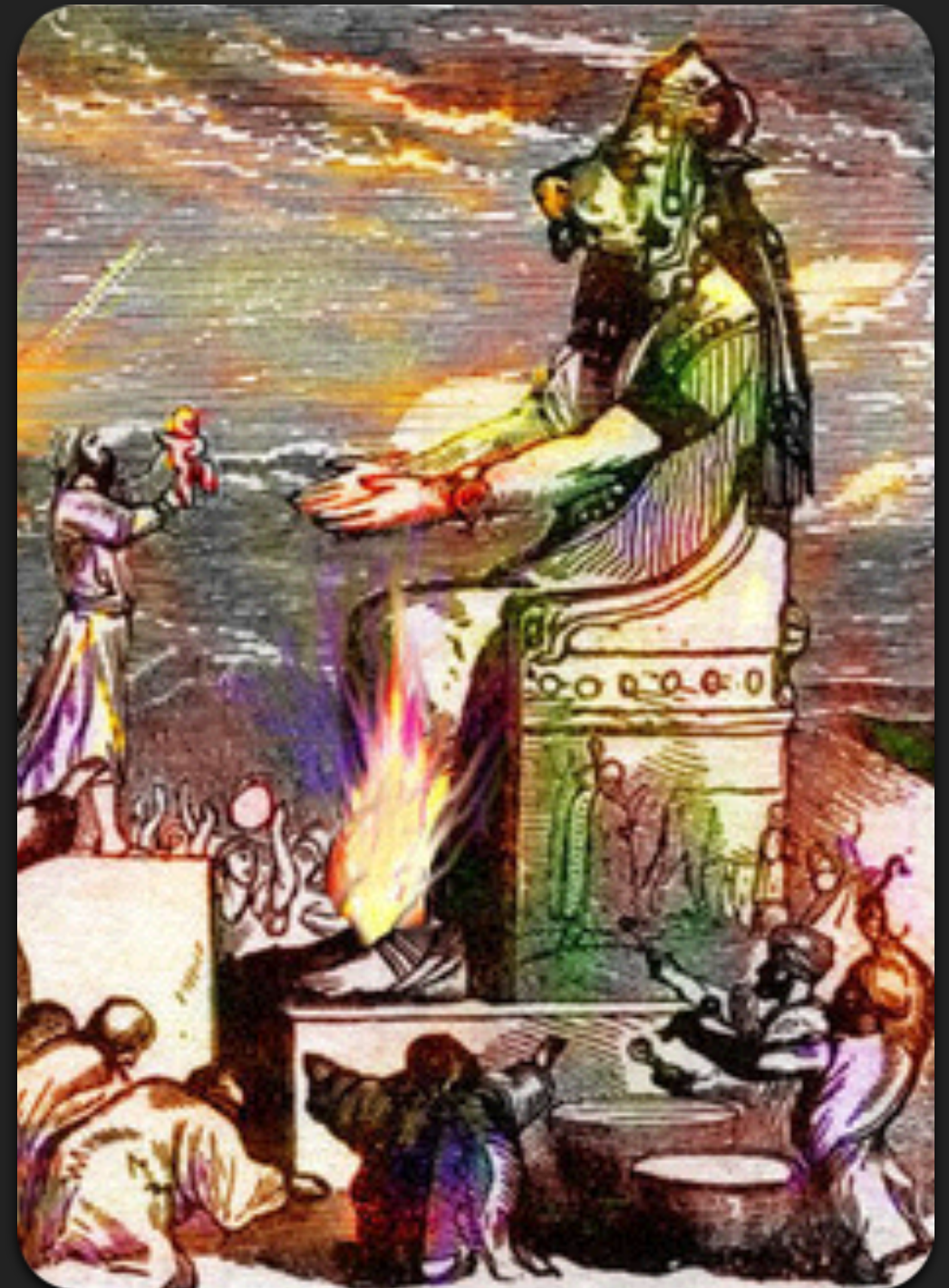
³ For this is the
will of God,
your
sanctification:
that you
should abstain
from sexual
immorality;

- ▶ **Sanctification** - "Set apart unto God"
 - ▶ Turned from idols to serve the living & true God - (1:9)
 - ▶ Put away evil tendencies & unholy habits from our hearts & lives (Mark 7:21-23; 2 Cor 6:14-7:1)
 - ▶ Not conformed to this world (Rom. 12:1-3; Col 3:1,2)
 - ▶ Must learn to be holy, then live holy - (Titus 2:12; 1 Pet 1:13-16)

SEXUAL IMMORALITY / FORNICATION

- ▶ **Porneia** (πορνεία, 4202) is used (a) of “illicit sexual intercourse,” in John 8:41; Acts 15:20, 29; 21:25; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:13, 18; 2 Cor. 12:21; Gal. 5:19; Eph. 5:3; Col. 3:5; 1 Thess. 4:3; Rev. 2:21; 9:21;

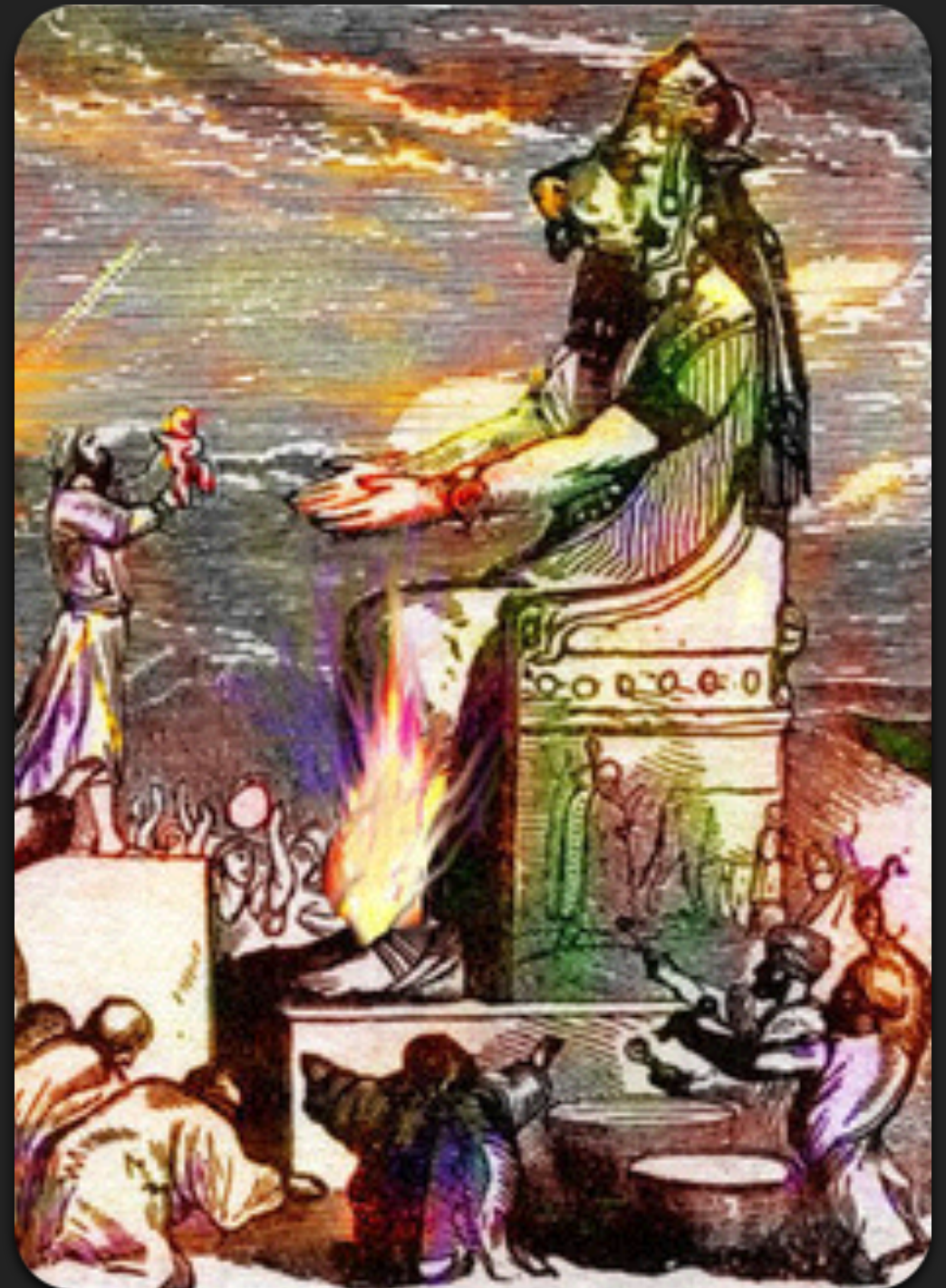
Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W., Jr. (1996). *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Vol. 2, p. 252). Nashville, TN: T. Nelson.



SEXUAL IMMORALITY / FORNICATION

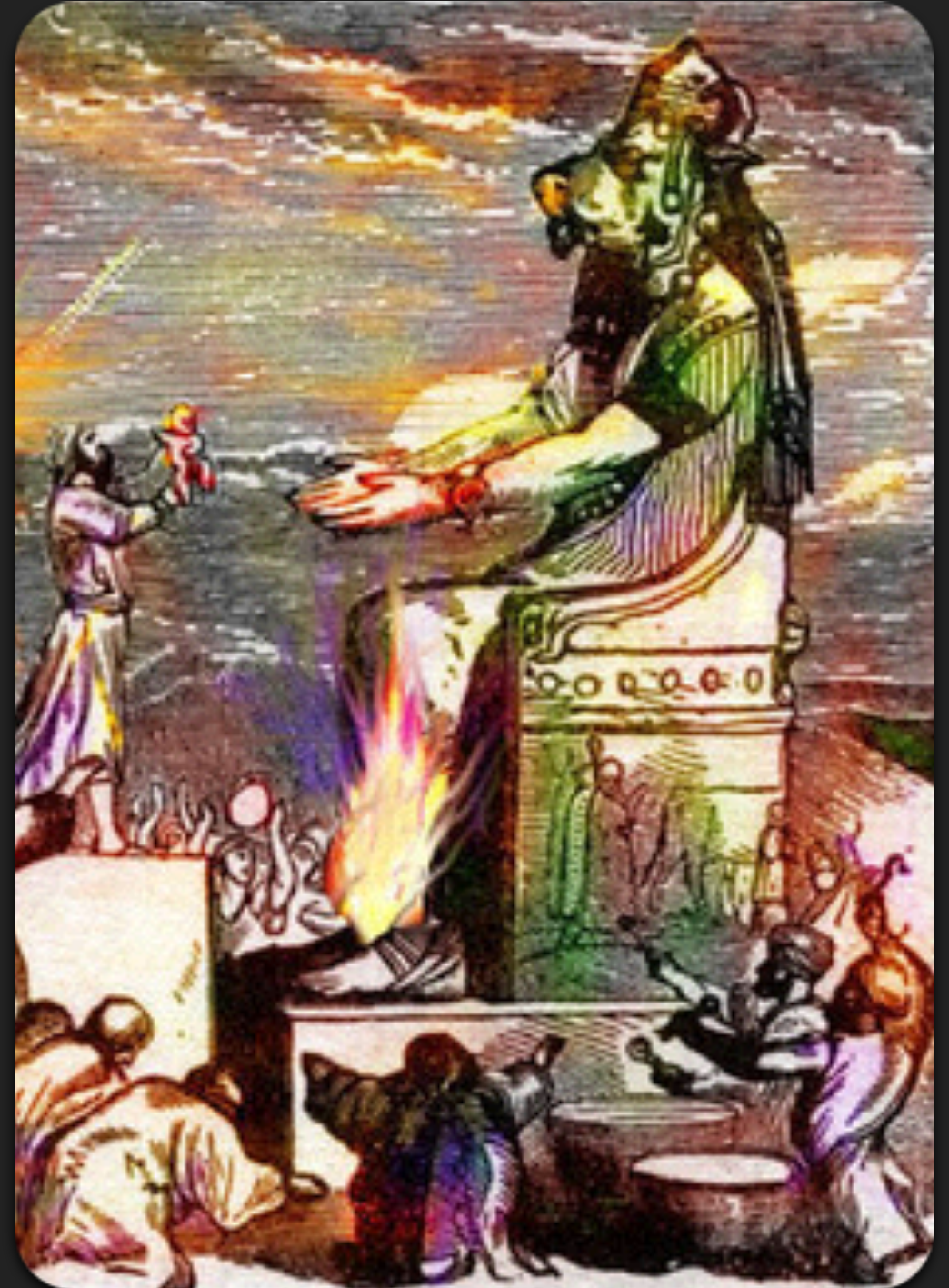
- ▶ **Porneias** (πορνείας), from which we get our English word "pornography." This word, in biblical times, referred to all kinds of sexually immoral things; from fornication, to adultery, to prostitution, to homosexuality

(G. Abbott-Smith, Greek Lexicon, p. 373).



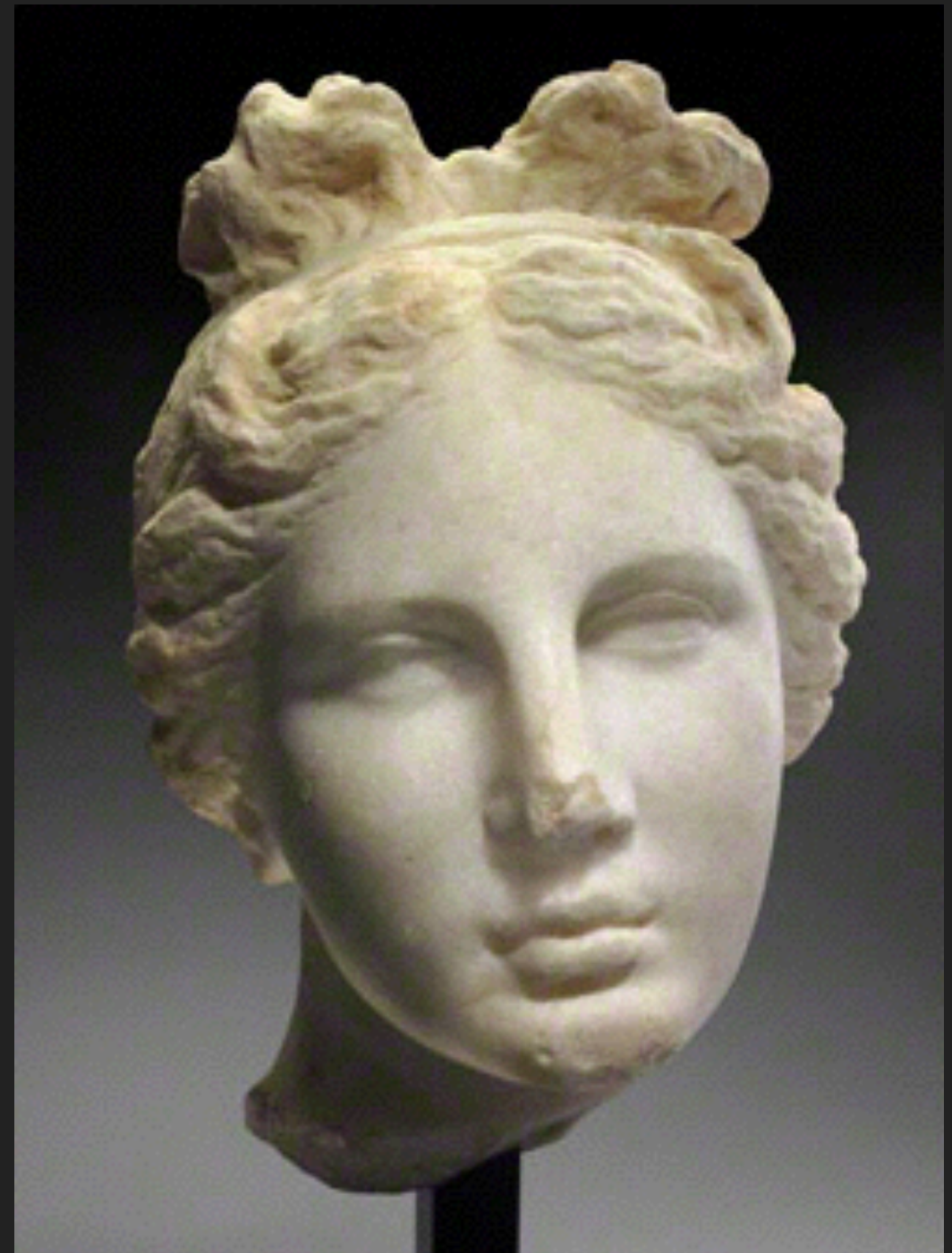
SEXUAL IMMORALITY / FORNICATION

Sexual Intercourse
Outside of Scriptural
Marriage - i.e., With
ANYONE With
Whom God Has Not
Joined You -
Mat. 19:3-9; Heb. 13:4



SEXUAL IMMORALITY / FORNICATION

- ▶ The first century world not only flaunted sexual immorality, it promoted it.
- ▶ Many religious worship places featured sexual immorality as part of their ceremonies.
- ▶ The Roman culture had no moral compass as to what immorality even was.



Aphrodite The Goddess
of Love and Beauty

SEXUAL IMMORALITY / FORNICATION

Old Testament

Forbidden -

(Exo. 20:14)

Punishable by death -

(Lev. 20:10)

Heinous Crime,

Wickedness -

(Job. 31:11)



New Testament

**Sin – Will keep out of
Heaven**

1 Cor. 6:9-11

Gal. 5:19-21

Eph 5:5,6

Rev. 21:8

Rev. 22:15

Sexual Intercourse With ANYONE With Whom God Has Not Joined You -
Mat. 19:3-9; Heb. 13:4

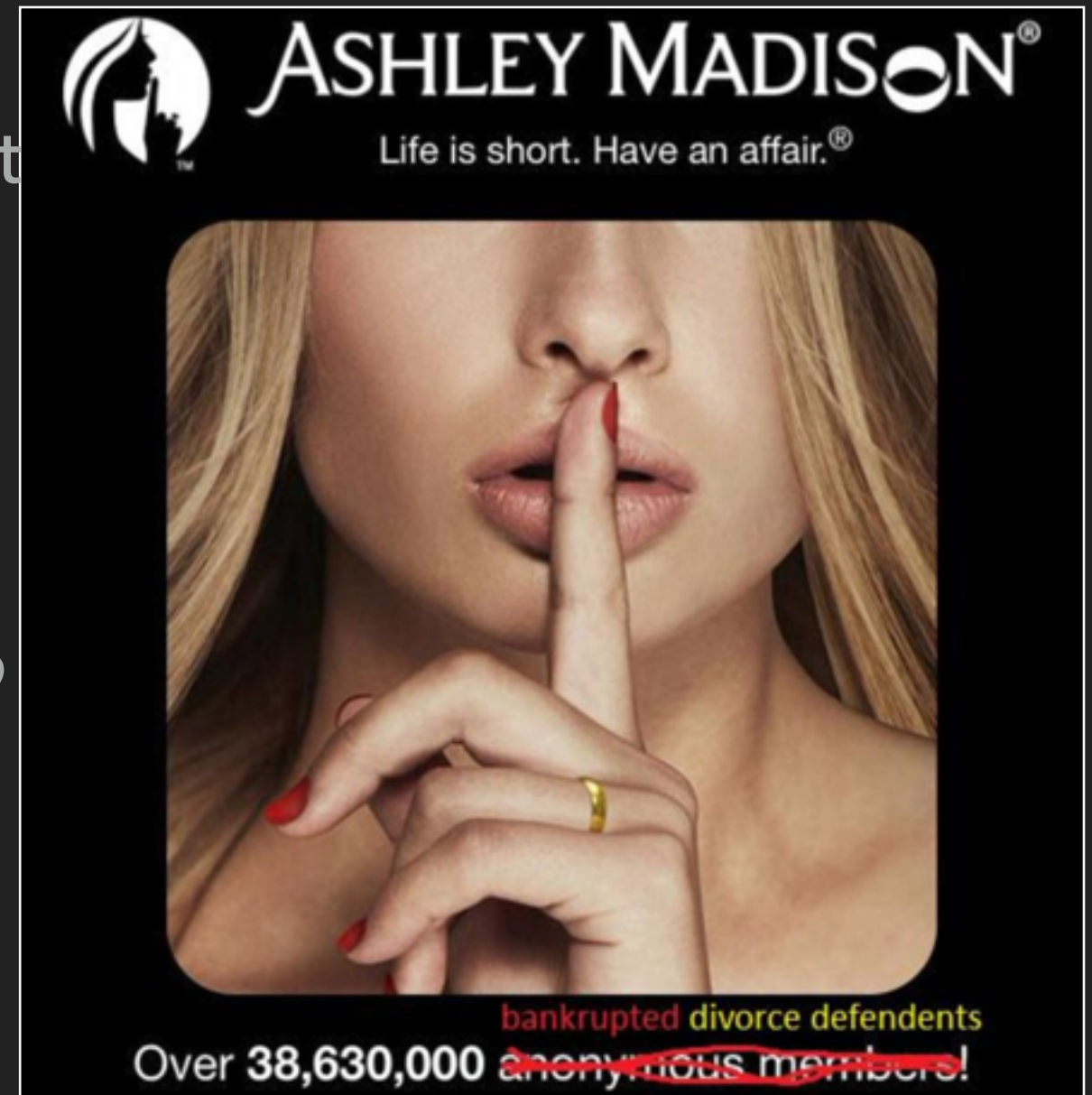
SEXUAL IMMORALITY / FORNICATION

- ▶ 41% - babies born out of wedlock
- ▶ 75% of teens have sex before graduating high school
- ▶ Majority of today's marriages preceded by cohabiting
- ▶ Cohabitation is increasingly replacing marriage altogether
- ▶ TV / Movies / Music - glorify sex outside of marriage
- ▶ Web-based fornication enablers & promoters



SEXUAL IMMORALITY / FORNICATION

- ▶ Against body - 1 Cor. 6:12-20
- ▶ Destroys reputation & self-respect - Job. 31:12; Prov. 5:9; 6:27, 33
- ▶ Harms others - 1 Cor. 5:6
- ▶ Creates jealousy - Prov. 6:34-35
- ▶ Can destroy marriage - Matt. 19:9
- ▶ Stirs the wrath of God - Col. 3:6
- ▶ Brings disfellowship - 1 Cor. 5
- ▶ Breeds other sins - 2 Sam. 11
- ▶ Sends soul to hell - Rev. 21:8



SEXUAL IMMORALITY / FORNICATION

- ▶ How It Happens
 - ▶ Fail to grow spiritually & relationally - (God & Mate)
 - ▶ Careless - (2 Sam. 11:1-5; Prov. 5:8; 7:6-23)
 - ▶ Heed the looks of the eyes - (Prov. 6:24-25)
 - ▶ Listen to the flattery / lies - (Prov. 6:24-25; 7:15, 21)
 - ▶ We do NOT RUN - Gen 39:12ff



THE WAY TO PURITY / SANCTIFICATION

3 For this is the
will of God,
your
sanctification:
that you
should abstain
from sexual
immorality;

- ▶ **Abstain** from sexual
immorality – 1 Cor. 6:18
- ▶ “Abstain” (απεχω) to hold back,
or keep away, or keep at a
distance from something.
- ▶ If we want to do the will of God,
to please Him, we must stay far
away from anything that is
sexually immoral. Don’t go near
it. Keep your distance. Keep
away from it. - 1 Thes 5:21,22

THE WAY TO PURITY / SANCTIFICATION

⁴ that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, ⁵ not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God;

▶ Requires **Self-Control**

- ▶ Controlling your body is possible & required – Rom. 6:19; 1 Cor. 6:18-20; 9:27
- ▶ Controlling your hands and thoughts is possible & required – 1 Cor. 7:1; Phil. 4:8; Prov. 4:23; 23:7
- ▶ Controlling your eyes & desires is possible & required – Job 31:1; Rom. 13:14; Eph. 4:22; Col. 3:5; 2 Tim. 2:22

THE WAY TO PURITY / SANCTIFICATION

⁴ that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, ⁵ not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God;

- ▶ **How To Say "No"** - Gen. 39:8, 10
 - ▶ Remember it is a sin - Gen. 39:9
 - ▶ Watch behavior around the opposite sex - Gen. 39:11
 - ▶ Get married - 1 Cor. 7:2
 - ▶ Be what you ought to be in the marriage - 1 Cor. 7:2-5
 - ▶ Keep thoughts pure - Prov. 6:25
 - ▶ Run - literally! - Gen. 39:12 (cf. Prov. 5:8)

THE WAY TO PURITY / SANCTIFICATION

⁶ that no
one should
take
advantage
of and
defraud his
brother in
this matter,
...

- ▶ Requires Respecting & Being Mindful of Others - (v. 6)
- ▶ Lest we place a stumbling block – Rom. 14:13, 21; Matt. 18:6-7; 1 Tim. 4:12
- ▶ Lest we lead others to sin – Matt. 5:28; Rom. 14:23
- ▶ Lest we cause hatred, vengeance, suffering . . . This sin always hurts others!!!!

THOSE GUILTY WILL FACE GOD'S JUDGMENT

⁶... because the Lord *is* the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified.

- ▶ The Lord will avenge those involved in sexual immorality - God will judge - (4:6b)
- ▶ "**Avenge**" (εκδικος) refers to giving out a righteous, legal, penalty to someone.
- ▶ Temporal consequences - Prov 6:27-35; 2 Sam 12:9-14
- ▶ Eternal consequences - 2 Thes 1:7-9; 1 Cor 6:9-11; Heb 13:4

THOSE GUILTY WILL FACE GOD'S JUDGMENT

⁷ For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. ⁸

Therefore he who rejects *this* does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

- ▶ Sexual immorality is not what a believer has been called to do. 4:7; Ephesians 5:3

Ephesians 5:3 (NKJV)

³ But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;

THOSE GUILTY WILL FACE GOD'S JUDGMENT

⁷ For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. ⁸

Therefore he who rejects *this* does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

- ▶ Rejecting this message is NOT rejecting a preacher, mans opinion, or an "out of date" cultural taboo -
- ▶ BUT rejecting the living God! - If we reject His divine message, we are rejecting Him - & thus rejected by God - (8) - 1 Cor 6:9-11; Gal 5:19-21;

THOSE GUILTY WILL FACE GOD'S JUDGMENT

⁷ For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. ⁸ Therefore he who rejects *this* does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

- ▶ To reject this COMMAND one declares he cares not to:
 - ▶ Walk with God (v. 1)
 - ▶ Please God (v. 1)
 - ▶ Obey God (v. 2)
 - ▶ Submit to the will of God (v. 3)
 - ▶ Heed the call of God to holiness (v. 7)
- ▶ But had rather accept the vengeance of God (v. 6)

THOSE GUILTY WILL FACE GOD'S JUDGMENT

Ephesians 5:5–7 (NKJV)

⁵ For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷ Therefore do not be partakers with them.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-8

SEXUAL IMMORALITY / FORNICATION

1 Corinthians 6:11
(NKJV)

¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.



1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-8

LET US LEARN & REMEMBER

- ▶ Staying away from sexual immorality is a commandment of the Lord Jesus. 4:2
- ▶ Staying away from sexual immorality is the will of God. 4:3a
- ▶ Staying away from sexual immorality is your sanctification . 4:3b
- ▶ Staying away from sexual immorality is by PURPOSEFULLY abstaining . 4:3c
- ▶ Staying away from sexual immorality means controlling one's own vessel . 4:4



1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-8

LET US LEARN & REMEMBER

- ▶ Sexual immorality transgresses against and defrauds a brother. 4:6a
- ▶ The Lord will avenge those involved in sexual immorality. 4:6b
- ▶ Sexual immorality is not what a believer has been called to do. 4:7
- ▶ Sexual immorality is a rejection of God's Word! 4:8



SEXUAL IMMORALITY / FORNICATION



- ▶ Some will go right on living it.
- ▶ Some parents will excuse it.
- ▶ Some religions will excuse it, or deny the consequences of it.
- ▶ Many will face God in judgment and be lost because of it.
- ▶ And, Satan will love it.

SEXUAL IMMORALITY / FORNICATION



- ▶ Fornication is NEVER a "harmless" act or a "healthy release."
- ▶ It is ALWAYS offensive to God & destructive to our well being!
- ▶ Is ANY sin, regardless of what kind of temporal pleasure it may give, worth losing your soul over? - Mat 16:26

SEXUAL IMMORALITY / FORNICATION

Hebrews 13:4 (NKJV)

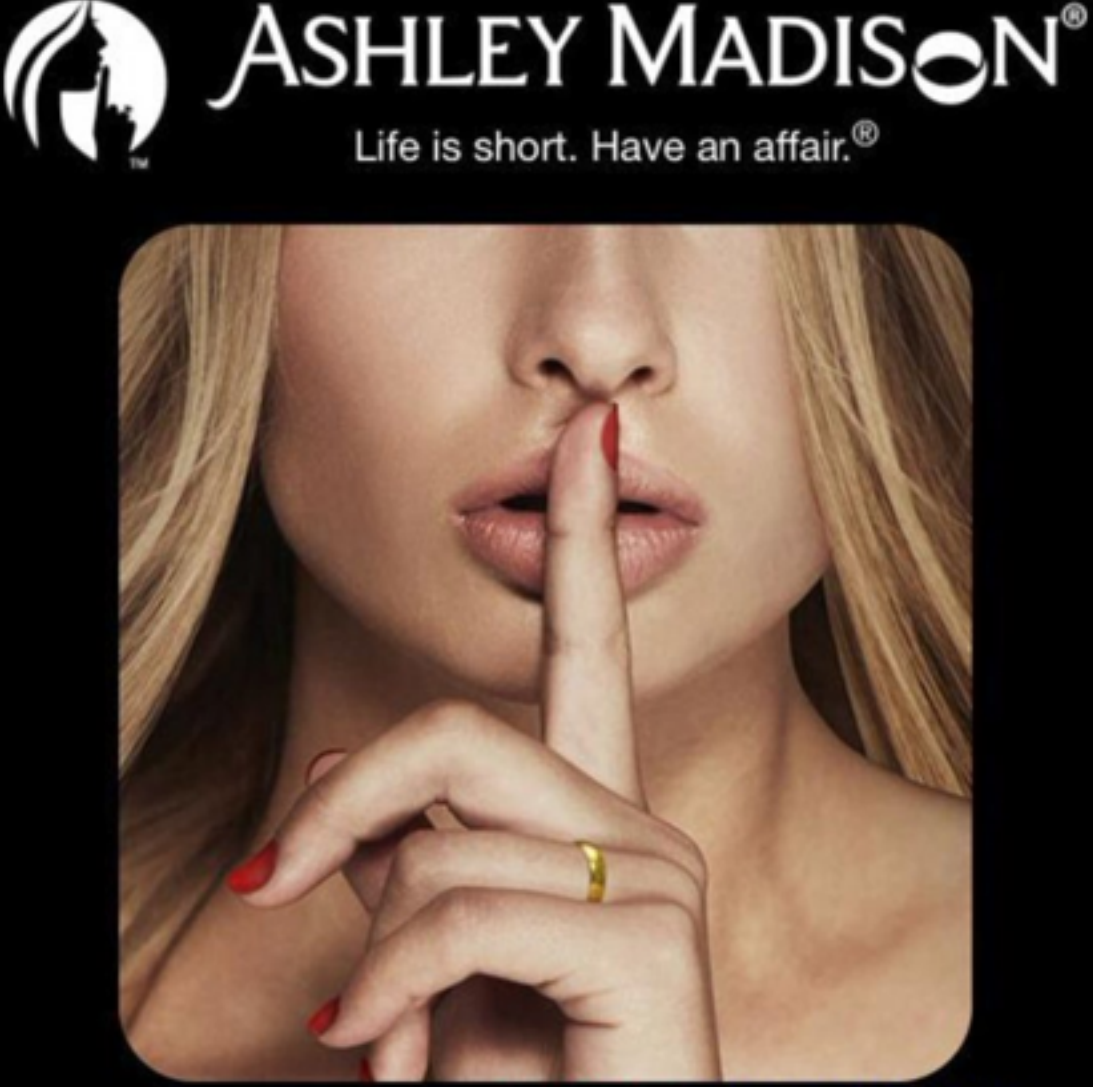
⁴ Marriage is
honorable among all,
and the bed undefiled;
but fornicators and
adulterers God will
judge.



SEXUAL IMMORALITY / FORNICATION

There is NO SUCH
THING AS SAFE SIN!!

If sin is in your life -
REPENT that it may
not be your ruin! - Ez.
18:30; Acts 17:30



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1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-8

GOD'S WILL FOR YOU - YOUR SANCTIFICATION

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2 CORINTHIANS 6:14–7:1 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? ¹⁵ And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?

2 CORINTHIANS 6:14–7:1 (NKJV)

¹⁶ And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.” ¹⁷ Therefore “Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.”

2 CORINTHIANS 6:14–7:1 (NKJV)

¹⁸ “I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the Lord Almighty.” ¹ Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.