

ULC Sermon Study Resource

Face to Face: Holiness to Life

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Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: What is your all-time favorite bad movie?

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Outline:

- I. Holiness towards sex (v1-8)
 - a. To pursue the holiness we've been given by Jesus is to move towards things that promote intimacy with God and to move away from things that don't.
 - b. Every time sexuality is taken out of God's design, people get hurt.
Q: *What is the Christian sexual ethic?*
- II. Holiness towards each other (v9-10)
 - a. We're called to be a community that shares our resources with the same generosity we'd have with our immediate family.
Q: *What resources besides money do we have to share?*
- III. Holiness towards society (v11-12)
 - a. As you step into society, be a productive and not a disruptive force.
 - b. We are made holy by Christ and nothing can take that away; in response, we're invited to live into that identity.
Q: *What are some examples of being a disruptive force?*

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) What things in your life promote intimacy with God?
- 2) Is it only challenging for younger generations to be holy towards sex?
- 3) Can you live with less?
- 4) Are you a productive or disruptive force to those around you?
- 5) What are productive ways to engage society in this time of isolation?

Suggestions for further study:

- 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 **Q: *How do you treat something another person entrusts you to look after?***
- 1 Timothy 6:17-19 **Q: *How should we respond to the blessings we have received?***
- Matthew 22:15-22 **Q: *How is Jesus productive and not disruptive?***

Closing Prayer: "Lord Jesus, we thank you that because of your finished work on the cross and in the empty tomb you've called us and set us apart as your holy people. Lord Jesus, teach us to live into who you've made us. Teach us to live with holiness toward sexuality, each other, and our society. May we be your people, the people you've called us to be. And when we stumble and fall, may we rest on your grace, knowing that your grace will catch us every single time. It's in your Holy Name that we pray. Amen."