

## **Do you know how to possess Your vessel ?**

As a Pastor I see as I talk with people , a common thread that runs through the fabric of there life. It is the thing that stays with them from the time they are born again till they go to be with the Lord. It is the cause life's frustrations.

This thing hinders those who say I love the Lord and I want to be right with Him.

I have heard the excuses from how hard it is to live for God to There is no way God can forgive me, or, you don't know what I've been through.

Why do I repeat the same sin over and over?

The thing I hate I continue to do.

What I desire to do I can never accomplish

It causes me to doubt my salvation.

I come to Church , get convicted , make a verbal commitment , but can't keep it or bring it into reality.

You do not know how to possess your vessel

**1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4:1-7**

You cannot live a sanctified life if you don't know how to walk and please God

Sanctification = purification or being made pure and holy

Holiness is not just an act of your will , but a process of learning and maintaining the will of God in your Character. **note verse 1**

It is not a don't touch or don't do mentality

Why not ? Because there is a part of you that wants to touch and do what is unclean to you

There are things that relate to your flesh and things that relate to your spirit man

**The flesh** - the human nature with its passions and desire to sin

The flesh has its own since of morality - what is right for me and , whatever feels good to me that will I do

**The born again spirit** - relates to the nature and character of God for it is made in His image and after His likeness. It obtains it's morality from God alone.

It's desire is to mind the things of the Holy Spirit that is , have in itself the things that come from God alone.

The desire for the spirit man is to take what we have received of God and excel more and more in quantity and in quality ( growth )

Trying to avoid sin by your will power alone is impossible

Will power = the power of the mind of your flesh ( this is the old man trying to resist the power of sin that works in the flesh )

Your flesh is bound to the Law of sin and death

**Romans 5:12**

**Romans 7:5**

If the Law of God ( the ten commandments ) could not make a man righteous before God , How can it now make a man Holy and sanctified?

Are you now pure by the same law that could not deliver you from sin?

Having been saved by grace through faith do I now try to be good by the same law showed me I was in sin?

**Romans 7:7-20**

**Galatians 3:1-3**

I must reckon some things

*1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4:3-7*

To reckon - to consider

The standard of God is different from this world's standard

We have repented from the old man with his lifestyle

Repent - think differently and reconsider

I have considered the life I once had before Christ to be a detriment to me , and have changed my mind about the direction I want to go in

True repentance

There is a difference between godly sorrow and worldly sorrow

Godly sorrow - in coming to God there is a sadness about the things I have done , and a willingness to change from them

Worldly sorrow - a sadness about the things I must give up because they are of great value to me

*2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 7:10*

### **Abstain from fornication**

The danger is that we have given ourselves over to the lust of the flesh which will cause us to be unclean to God

Marriage will not fix your lust problem

People marry for sex and divorce for the same reason

The lust of the flesh doesn't consider anything but self gratification

To the flesh there is no consequences nor limitations

It does not consider the emotional nor physical harm of fornication

If your marriage revolves around lust it is in trouble

Who do I hurt when I fornicate?

Me - I am ashamed to approach God because I know I lack something in my fellowship with Him

Others - As a believer I am to be the light of this world not a participant in its darkness and , by so doing I hinder the testimony of Christ

Those that come from that unclean union. There is no love present when I fornicate so whatever is produced from it , love is outside the scope of it

### **How do I abstain from fornication and the Lust of the Flesh?**

Paul told the Church at Thessalonica that everyone of them should have and hold on to the knowledge of how to possess their vessels.

This implies that they had received from him that knowledge *1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4:1*

There growth would abound more and more from this knowledge

The response from people when they operate outside the will of God and are rebuked is

( I know what the word says ) You have a knowledge of what you are suppose to do and you are serious about Jesus being Lord but , you didn't perform the will of God?

What is meant is :

I know I should do better but how to do it I know not

**Romans 7:18-25**

Verse 25 says with my flesh ( the human nature with its passions and desire to sin ) I can only serve the law of sin

It is my flesh that seems to have a will of its own. How do I get free from its hold?

**Romans 6:17-23**

Within the believer there is a dual nature

Sin nature in my flesh

The new nature ( called the new creature ) in my spirit

These two natures are at war within me

The nature to sin is bound by the law of sin and death

We must put to death this sin nature

Then we must live by the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus

No longer are we servants to sin , for we are no longer under the law as a covenant

We have died to the law of sin and death , but are now alive through our union through the Spirit with Jesus Christ

**Romans 7:1-6**

**Romans 8:1-7**

The challenge is to learn to live as new people not as those under the law

The nature of sin is overcome by a more powerful principle - the Spirit of Life

**Romans 8:8-11**

This is a faith building principle

Christ must dwell in our hearts by Faith

The principle of the Spirit of life worketh in us

**Ephesians 3:14-21**

It is deep dark bondage when we think that our faith is only to get stuff from God.

We want:

Homes

Spouses

Children

Cars

More money and other worldly riches

We live and walk by faith

Faith is a lifestyle change where I pursue God in all His holiness and His purpose for my life

The faith of Abraham

**Romans 4:1-17**