

The Will of God

A silhouette of a person stands on a beach, looking out at the ocean. The sky is a mix of yellow, orange, and blue, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The water is dark with white foam from waves. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

Living unto the Lord's Return:
A study of 1 Thessalonians

The Will of God

“Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you **in the Lord Jesus**, that as you received 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.**”

1 Thessalonians 4:1-2

Sanctification

- “For this is the will of God,
your sanctification”
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:3a
- Definition: *To be made holy*
- More than just head knowledge
- How do you become better at driving?



The Will of God in Six Simple Words

- **Read your Bible every single day.**
- **Read your Bible and pray daily.**
- **Go to church and small groups.**
- **Do a lot of mercy ministries.**
- **Preach the gospel once a week.**
- **Do the Oasis Solidify discipleship program.**



The Will of God in Six Simple Words

For this is the will of God, your sanctification:

THAT YOU ABSTAIN FROM SEXUAL IMMORALITY.

1 Thessalonians 4:3

“Sexual Immorality”
porneia (Gk)
(A junk drawer term)



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The Bible has never been really tried and found lacking, but it has been found very convicting and therefore not tried.

—*James MacDonald*

Sex as a God-Given Gift

Sex is a beautiful, God-given gift when it occurs within the context of marriage between one man & one woman (Gen. 2:24-25; Mat. 19:4-6; Eph. 5:31-33) and described for at least these purposes:

- Pleasure (Song of Songs; Proverbs 5:15-19)**
- Children (Genesis 1:28)**
- Oneness (Genesis 2:24)**
- Knowledge (Genesis 4:1)**
- Comfort (2 Samuel 12:24)**
- Protection from Sexual Sin (1 Cor. 7:2-5)**

The Will of God Lived Out

For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-4

The Will of God Lived Out

For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-4

The Will of God Rationalized Away

That each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor.

1 Thessalonians 4:4

Christian Youth (16-29)
Who Find the Following
Morally Acceptable:

- Cohabitation: 59%
- Fornication: 44%
- Lust: 33%

Result: Giving up control & effectively abandoning the sanctification process.



The Will of God Lived Out

That each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor.

1 Thessalonians 4:4

I FEEL THE NEED



THE NEED TO FEED



The Will of God with a Warning

Not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God;

That no one transgress 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.

1 Thessalonians 4:5-6

The Will of God with Grace

For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness.

1 Thessalonians 4:7

- Acknowledge & respond to God's call and will (v7)**
- Repent and confess your sins to God (1 John 1:9)**
- Confess to the other person (James 5:16)**
- Starve the lust and be spiritually nourished with other Christians in community (2 Timothy 2:22)**
- Hold to the facts of Scripture (Isaiah 1:18; 1 John 1:9)**

Final Words on the Will of God

Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives His Holy Spirit to you.

1 Thessalonians 4:8



The Will of God

Will you disregard the will of God?

Will you regard the will of God?

There is no neutral.

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