

# True Love Waits

## The True Love Waits Pledge

*God wants you to be holy and to stay away from sexual sins. He wants each of you to learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable. Don't use your body for sexual sin like people who do not know God. Also, do not cheat another Christian in this way. The Lord will punish people who do those things as we have already told you and warned you. God called us to be holy and does not want us to live in sin. So the person who refuses to obey this teaching is disobeying God, not simply a human teaching. And God is the one who gives us his Holy Spirit. (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8, NCV)*

*"For God wants you to be holy and pure, and to keep clear of all sexual sin so that each of you will marry in holiness and honor. (1 Thessalonians 4:3-4, TLB)*

### A Lesson from Paul

- God wants you to be holy
  - Notice the issue is chastity, not virginity
  - We cannot be holy if we live in sin
  - We can only be holy with the help of God's Holy Spirit
- God wants you to avoid sexual sin
  - Just because the issue is chastity doesn't mean that virginity has nothing to do with it.
  - Notice he doesn't just say avoid sex- but rather all sexual sins
- God wants you to learn self-control so that you can marry with honor.
  - In verse 4, Paul uses an interesting phrase which translated literally means acquire your vessel
  - Some argue that the phrase refers to learning self-control

- Some point out that it was a cliché used to describe find a wife
- Could it mean both?
- Obviously God wants us to marry with honor
- That's not possible, however, unless we learn self-control
- You can't control your body in holiness and honor if you let appetites rule your life.
- Violating God's design for sex is not only a sin against God, and our future, but it is a sin against others as well.
  - We sin against our future spouse by cheating them out of our purity.
  - We sin against their future spouse by sleeping with their spouse.
  - We sin against our future children by weakening our relationship.

### The True Love Waits Pledge

*"Believing that true love waits, I make a commitment to God, myself, my family, my friends, my future mate, and my future children to a lifetime of purity including sexual abstinence from this day until the day I enter a biblical marriage relationship."*

- This is a commitment based on true love
- This is a commitment to those we love
- This commitment has two parts, a forever commitment and a for now commitment
  - A lifetime of purity
  - Abstinence for now.
- The goal is not older but married