Daily Devotion #181

**An Example of Godliness**

**1 Thessalonians 4:7 (NASB)** *“For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification.”*

Most people live their lives for other people - doing all they can to make sure others recognize them. People have the insatiable desire to be better than the next person – whether that’s the leader of the pack, the best student in the class, the most popular at work, the greatest achiever, the best looking, etc.. And often, there is little to no concern for who they walk on to make themselves be the best. This can be seen in our political arena today.

Because this is such a sinful selfish drive in the soul of people, just about anything goes. People will do or say just about anything to make sure they are on top. Sadly, that is something that every person has felt and every family has dealt with, even if those tendencies are subtle and unrecognizable at first. But none-the-less the desire is there. It is a part of our sinful nature.

This can be so subtle, most people don’t even recognize it, and it is being pushed in just about every way in our culture. For example, television ads and shows, whether they are reality shows or regular series shows, are promoting self growing at an alarming rate. Today, younger and younger people snap selfies to show off their bodies or to show off their features. Many are too young to even be concerned about any of that. Social media is inundated with the promotion of self.

God’s people are often caught up in promoting self as well. Pastors who lead churches and are to be the examples of godliness and selflessness often lead through arrogance and dominance over their staff and people. Many in the church leadership lose their ministry because of their desires to fulfill the flesh. It is a sad reality, but many who profess the Lord as their Savior do not live the kind of lives that God would have them live, simply because they are caught up in their sinful passion to promote themselves.

Knowing this was the tendency of the church in Thessolonica, even though they were doing well for the most part, Paul warns them about living lives that are pure, free from the sexual temptations and free from the allurments of sin to promote themselves above others. Evidently, the sexual temptations were a growing concern for Paul. So he give the church instructions about how they should be living their spiritual lives. His summary is our verse for today. God has not called us to live immoral, impure lives. That refers to both mental and physical impurity.

You and I, as God’s children, are to be the examples of purity. We are to be in control of our bodies and the desires of our sinful minds so that we do not allow ourselves to become victims of our flesh and its desires to act upon what it feels at the moment. The world is depending on us to be different from the “normal” ways of life that people live who don’t know Christ. In fact, the church is growing at an amazing rate according to the latest Christian polls. And that is because the world is afraid. The pandemic has caused hundreds of thousands to look to the church for answers. But if the world looks to us for answers and they don’t see anything different from what they know in the world, they will leave. They weill be disheartened and confused about who we are and who our God is.

Loved ones, protect your children from the sin that rages in their minds and bodies. Protect your neighbors from thinking our God is just another god who has no ability to make a difference in society. Live your lives in a holy, God-fearing way. Love with the right spiritual love. But most of all, promote Jesus and not yourself. Be careful how you speak. Be cautious about how you react to anyone. Be mindful of who is watching you, even if you don’t know who or when they are watching. We are called to be different. The world needs us to be different. How else will they look to our Lord if we are not pointing them in the right direction?