I THESSALONIANS
Part Thirty Seven: “Excellence in Moral Purity, Part 3”

I Thessalonians 4:5
Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God

Moral Purity is a matter of knowing God.

The lust of concupiscence is a passion for the forbidden. It is when a person has a driving appetite for what he cannot have, particularly because he cannot have it.

1. The lust of concupiscence is NOT how a believer ought to possess his vessel.

2. Being driven by your passion for the forbidden is characteristic of those who do not know God.

3. The opposite of being driven by your passion for the forbidden is striving to be like Christ and to value what He values.

   Vs. 4 - that every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour

4. When you don’t know God, you simply pursue what makes you feel good, like an animal does; when you know God, you are driven to please Him (the will of God vs. 3), to become like Him (sanctification vs. 4), and to value what He values (honour vs 4).

5. Living to fulfill your lustful appetites is the result of not knowing God, and knowing God transforms you from living to fulfill your lustful appetites.

Preparation for Prayer

It requires a serious mind and a determined heart to pray past the ordinary into the unusual. Most Christians never do.