**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. February 12, 2017**

**A Call To Sexual Purity**

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

**Key truth:** As Disciples of Christ, we are a distinct people set apart by God, for God to display the glory of God to the world.

1. A call to holiness is a call to discipleship.

 A. God’s grace and mercy will redeem your past in order

 that you can honor God with your sexuality.

2. Sexual purity is not an option for Christians but a

 command. 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

 A. We are to abstain in our singleness. 1 Corinthians 7:8-9

 B. We are to be faithful to our spouse in our marriage.

 Hebrews 13:4/Matthew 5:31-32

 C. We are to be pure in our interactions and thoughts

 with one another. Matthew 5:27-30

3. The “why” of the command:

 A. Our bodies don’t belong to us but to God.

 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

 B. Sexual Immorality dishonors God, yourself and the

 other person.

 C. We are no longer to be slaves to the sinful nature.

 Romans 6:6-7

4. The “how” of the command:

 A. Understand your new identity.

 B. Avoid compromising situations. 2 Timothy 2:2

 C. Surround yourself with like-minded believers.

 1 Corinthians 15:33-34

 D. Turn to Jesus and depend on the Holy Spirit’s power.

**Taking It Beyond the Walls:** Honor and worship God in your body.

**Connection Group Study Questions**

**Quick Review:** Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

**Getting to know you**: When you think about the word “Holiness” what comes to mind? Some of you were raised in a ”Holiness” church how did that affect or help you growing up?

What is your definition of holiness?

Read: 1 Corinthians 6:9-11: Pastor Felton stated, “God’s grace and mercy will redeem your past in order for you to honor God with your sexuality.” What do you see from this passage about God redeeming us from our past?

Read: Matthew 6:27-33: The Christian sexual ethic is different from the culture and will be rejected. Why do you think that is? How did Jesus teaching go against the culture of his day?

The best way to persuade the culture concerning the Christian sexual ethic is by living out beautiful relationships in which a husband and wife have a beautiful marriage and singles walk in “worship abstinence.” What do you think about this statement?

Read Hebrews 13:7: Sex is an incredible gift from God that should be celebrated but can also be abused. Why do you think the subject of “sex” is an uncomfortable topic in church? What are the consequences if we fail to talk about sex from God’s perspective?

Read Galatians 6:1-2: Why is fellowship important for God’s people concerning sexuality?