

# Real Love

## I Thessalonians 4:1–12

**1.** One myth our culture feeds us is that REAL LOVE IS SEX.

•A God-pleasing life is a life of sanctification.

•The emphasis of this particular word is on the transforming process.

- To avoid means is to stay away from something, to keep our distance, like not walking on the frozen lake because of the "Thin Ice" sign.
- The word Paul uses for "sexual immorality" here is the Greek word porneia.
- Separating ourselves is the negative side of our sexual sanctification.
- The positive side is learning how to control our bodies.

- We demonstrate real love by respecting God's sexual boundaries.
- One reason is that sexual sin reflects secular values (4:5).
- Another reason is because sexual sin devalues people (4:6a).
- The word for "wrong" here means to “*step over the prescribed boundaries.*”

- The word for "take advantage" means "*to exploit or use*" a person.
- In the end sexual sin reduces people to objects to be used rather than people to be valued.
- Sexual sin also provokes God's justice (4:6b).
- Finally, sexual sin rejects God's calling (4:7-8).

2. The second myth about love in our culture is that REAL LOVE is INDEPENDANCE. (4:9-10).

•That's exactly where many people are today, left without a place to belong, without any sort of connectedness.

•We demonstrate real love by treating each other as FAMILY.

3. Now the final myth I want to talk about is the opposite of independence, and that's that REAL LOVE IS DEPENDENCE (4:11-12).

• Unhealthy dependence isn't love, but it's manipulation that takes advantage of others.

• WE DEMONSTRATE REAL LOVE BY STRIVING TO LIVE A RESPONSIBLE LIFE.

- By living responsible lives they'll communicate the message of Christ to the watching world.