1 Thessalonians 4: 3-8 – Alistair Begg

https://www.truthforlife.org/resources/sermon/sexual-purity-pt-1/

This paragraph can be viewed as one half of a conversation. What we have here is Paul’s answers to a dialogue that is taking place between them.

Imagine it as a dialogue responding to questions he has received.

Starting in verse 3

Paul says, “It is God’s will that you should be sanctified.”

To which the individual replies, “Like um, what do you mean?”

To which Paul replies, “Avoid sexual immorality.”

To which the reply is, “How am I supposed to do that?”

To which the reply comes, “Learn to control your own body. Live within the God ordained limits.”

To which the individual responds, “So it’s just a kind of personal private matter is it?”

To which the apostle responds, “No. Make sure you don’t wrong your brother in relationship to these things.”

To which the individual responds, “Well, I’m sure, since the Lord is so loving He won’t mind if I mess up.”

To which the apostle responds, “Listen, the Lord will punish this kind of sin.”

To which the individual responds, “Give it to me again... just, in a sentence.”

To which the apostle replies, “God did not call us to be impure but to live a holy life.

To which the individual responds, “I think you’re a little excessive in your relationship to this Paul. I think you are going a wee bit over the top.”

To which the apostle responds, “He who rejects this instruction does not reject man, but God who give you His Holy Spirit.”