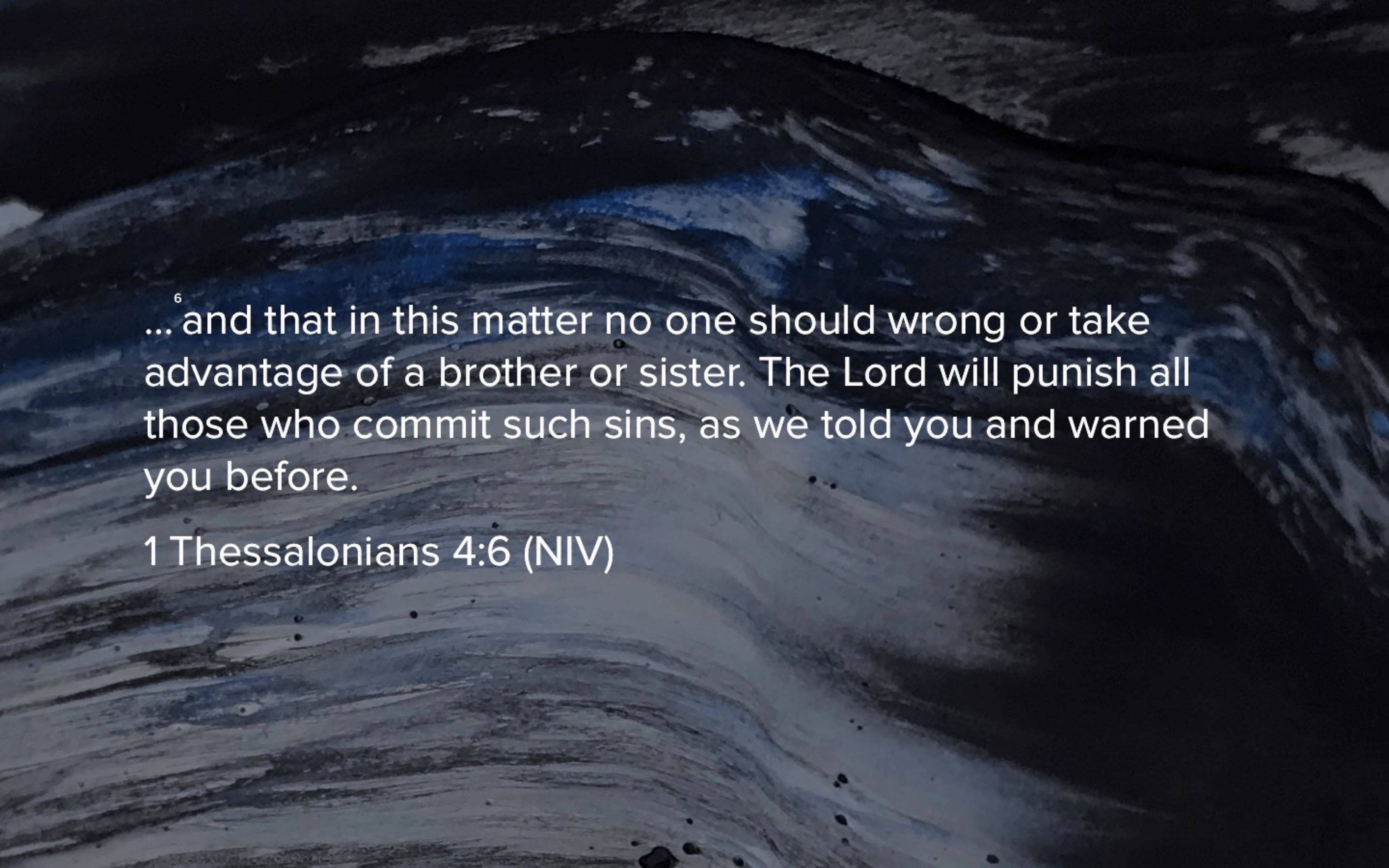


An aerial photograph of a coastline with waves crashing against the shore. The water is dark blue, and the waves are white with foam. The beach is light-colored sand. The sky is dark and overcast.

Real Relationships



...⁶ and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before.

1 Thessalonians 4:6 (NIV)

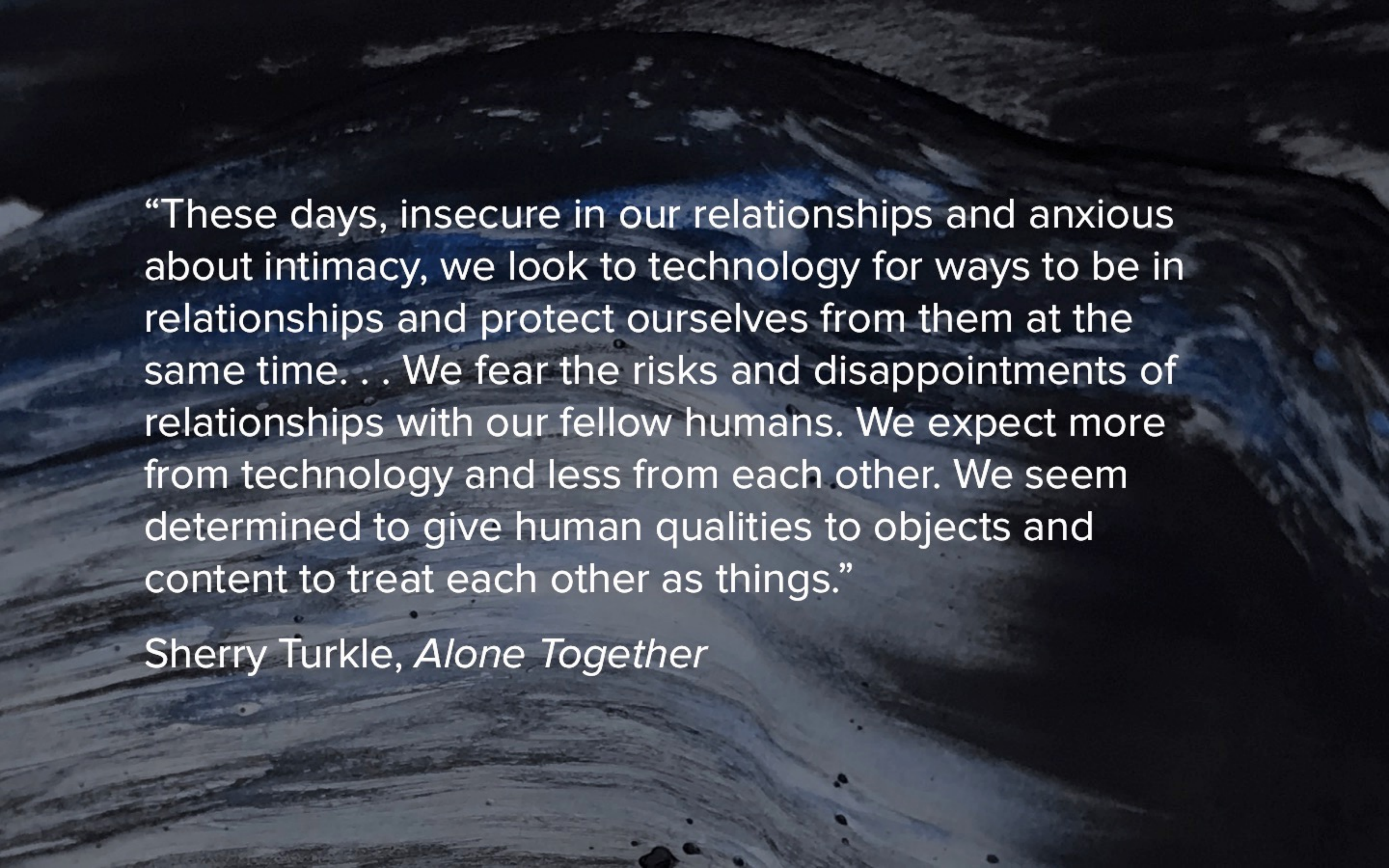
THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WORLDLY AND BIBLICAL RELATIONSHIPS

WORLDLY RELATIONSHIPS



BIBLICAL RELATIONSHIPS





“These days, insecure in our relationships and anxious about intimacy, we look to technology for ways to be in relationships and protect ourselves from them at the same time. . . . We fear the risks and disappointments of relationships with our fellow humans. We expect more from technology and less from each other. We seem determined to give human qualities to objects and content to treat each other as things.”

Sherry Turkle, *Alone Together*

CT
CHRISTIANITY TODAY

The
Economist

Psychology Today

POLITICO

BBC

The
Washington
Post

AS A CULTURE,
WE ARE BECOMING
SOCIALLY INCAPABLE

the guardian

Times

ASA
AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

THE
WALL STREET
JOURNAL.

The
Atlantic

VIRTUAL AND DIGITAL LIVING IS NOT REAL LIVING

The internet has made it so easy to gratify basic social and sexual needs that there is little incentive to go out into the real world.

SOCIAL MEDIA RELATIONSHIPS ARE NOT AUTHENTIC

Increased social media use goes hand-in-hand with rising rates of anxiety and depression.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION IS NOT SIGNIFICANT

The more people depend on electronic communication, the less they are able to communicate without it.

HOOK-UPS DO NOT REPRESENT REAL INTIMACY

“We hook up because we don’t have social skills, and we don’t have social skills because we hook up.”

Technology is Crippling Our Ability to:

1. Talk and connect with one another
2. Experience deep relationships
3. Handle normal, necessary relationship-building interactions

¹⁶ Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth?

Galatians 4:16 (NIV)

Real Relationships Should be Strong, Not Soiled

¹³ May he **strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy** in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones. ¹As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more.

1 Thessalonians 3:13-4:1 (NIV)

Real Relationships Should be Sacred, Not Secular

³It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; ⁴that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, ⁵not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; ⁶and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. ⁷**For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.**

1 Thessalonians 4:3-7 (NIV)

Real Relationships Should be Sacred, Not Secular

Secular Relationships are Consumer Relationships.

Sacred Relationships are Covenant Relationships.

Sex is a covenant good, not a consumer good.

- *Tim Keller*

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WORLDLY AND BIBLICAL RELATIONSHIPS

WORLDLY RELATIONSHIPS



BIBLICAL RELATIONSHIPS



Real Relationships Should be Safe, Not Cynical

⁶and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before.

1 Thessalonians 4:6 (NIV)

Real Relationships Should be Supportive, Not Separate

⁹ Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. ¹⁰ And in fact, you do love all of God's family throughout Macedonia. **Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more.**

1 Thessalonians 4:9-10 (NIV)