

We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. Because our gospel came to you not simply with words but with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. We were not looking for praise from

people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. 7 Instead, we were like young children among you, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom

and glorify you. May he strengthen that you will and holy in the presence of our God when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones. It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality. And to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and your hands, just as we told you. Brothers, do not want

ry. May he who hears so your hearts be blameless and Father Lord Jesus who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still

alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will

be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words. Pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. For God did not appoint us

Homework - 5

Spend some time every day this week reading 1 Thessalonians 3:11-4:12. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to see what it is that He has for you from His Word. Try reading it aloud at least once.

In his book, Living in the End Times, John Stott states, "One of the greatest weaknesses of contemporary Christianity is our comparative neglect of Christian ethics, in both our teaching and our practice. We are known as people who preach the gospel rather than as those who live it."

What do you think about this? Do you agree? Why or why not?

I. Focus on verses 3:11-13.

- Paul expresses his desire for the Thessalonians in a prayer. What are the things that Paul is asking for?
- How do these verses set up what Paul says in chapter four?

II. *Chapters 4 and 5 are very practical as Paul instructs his readers about how Christians should live differently than their surrounding culture. He will tackle topics like sex, community, death and work. He instructs them that they must be radically different than the surrounding culture. Read 4:1-12 and summarize the main points of each section.*

- 4:1-2
- 4:3-8
- 4:9-12

III. Look at 4:1-2.

What are some ways that “in fact you are living” to please God? (Verse 1)

IV. Spend some time reading verses 3-8.

- a. What is God’s will for you according to verse 3?
- b. How would you define the word “holy”?
- c. How would you define “sexual immorality”?
- d. What is the relationship between a Christian being “sanctified”/ “made holy” and his sexual behavior?
- e. Verses 4-6 further define “sexual immorality”. What are some phrases that Paul uses to do this? How do these phrases help you define sexual immorality?
- f. How does verse 7 tie in? What word starts verse 7? Why is this important?
- g. How does Paul wrap up this paragraph? What is the significance of the word “therefore?”
- h. Verse 8 says, “Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit.”

Have you ever been rejected before? What is it like? Why is it a big deal to reject God?

In what ways is your approach to sex similar to the culture in which you live?

In what ways is your approach different?

What motivates you to live by God’s principles for sexuality?

V. How do verses 9-12 fit into the context?

Spend some time this week asking the Lord to “strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father.

VI. Avoiding sexual immorality is not the only way to live to please God, but it is a big way. Look up these verses and note what they say about living to please God.

a. Romans 14:17-18

b. 2 Corinthians 5:9-10

c. 2 Timothy 2:1-4

d. Galatians 1:10

e. Ephesians 5:8-11

f. Colossians 1:9-14

VII. Application:

How are you convicted as a result of studying this passage?

What do you want greater understanding of?

What thoughts or actions need to change in order for you to “please God”?

Who is one person you will talk to THIS WEEK about these things?

What is God's role in your sanctification?