

1 Thessalonians (ch 4)

How To Live In Order to Please God

We Instructed You How to Live in Order To PLEASE God

1Th 4:1-18 NIV As 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***.

- Christianity is more than a belief system - it is a faith that shows us to HOW WE LIVE
- And not just HOW to live, but How To Live in order to PLEASE GOD

To **PLEASE** God - GK.(through the idea of exciting emotion); to be agreeable (or by implication to seek to be so)

It is amazing to think that God has shown us HOW TO PLEASE HIM

- Think of the god Molech - people offered their children as a burnt sacrifice to try to please him - but God has not left us in the dark but has spelled out how we can please Him

This is how Jesus lived

- Joh 8:29 NIV The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for **I always do what pleases him.**"

Paul made it his goal

- 2Co 5:9 NIV So **we make it our goal to please him**, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.

These Instructions Are Given By The Authority of Jesus

2 For you know what instructions we gave you by the **authority of the Lord Jesus**.....

8 Therefore, ***anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God***, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.

- Recognizing this was one of the strengths of the Thessalonian churches
- 1Th 2:13 NIV And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.

1) That We Should Be Sanctified

3 It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should **avoid sexual immorality**;

What does it mean to be sanctified?

- All sexual activity falls into two boats [that which God honors / that which God judges]
 - Heb 13:4 NIV Marriage should be honored by all, and **the marriage bed** kept pure, for God will judge the **adulterer and all the sexually immoral**.

A) Learn to Control Your Body

- In a way that is **holy and honorable** [value] vs **passionate lust**
 - The Key - **KNOWING GOD**

4 that each of you should learn to **control your own body** in a way that is holy and honorable, 5 not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God;

B) No one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister

- The Key - **ACCOUNTABILITY** GOD PUNISHES ALL WHO COMMIT SUCH SINS

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.

C) Holiness is a calling

- To reject this instruction is a rejection of God
 - The Key - **EMPOWERMENT** - He gives us His HOLY Spirit

7 For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. 8 Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.

2) That We Should Love One Another

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**,

Love is a mark of a true disciple

- Joh 13:35 NIV By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

3) That We Should Work

11 and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, 12 so that **your daily life** may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

- Work with your hands - PURPOSE OF WORK
 - win the respect of those who don't know the LORD
 - meet the needs in your life - not dependent on anybody

These things please God - Because they are like him

- He is Holy - 1Pe 1:16 "Be holy because I am holy."
- He is Love - 1 John 4:8 ... God is love
- He Works - John 5:17 My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working

Final Encouragement - Resurrection and Eternal Life

13 Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. 14 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. 15 **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**. 16 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**. 17 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**. 18 Therefore **encourage one another with these words**.

- There is the HOPE of resurrection
- There is the PROMISE of Eternal Life