

# 1 Thessalonians

**Week 6: Living to Please God**

**October 18 2023**

## *1 Thessalonians 4:1-12*

What things did you do that you knew would please your parents?

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How did you learn what those things were? \_\_\_\_\_

It is assumed in the scriptures that individuals who profess to believe in the God of the Bible, and His Son the God-man Jesus Christ will live a different life than they lived before they came to believe. Joshua 24:14-16; Ephesians 5:8-11

Paul writes on this theme in 1 Thessalonians 4:1-2. What does Paul mean when he says they are to please the Lord more and more? \_\_\_\_\_

Paul claims the authority of Jesus Christ as an apostle and now teaches what it means to live a life pleasing to God.

- We are to be sanctified and avoid sexual immorality.** Verse 3. In this case it means to be devoted to serving God with our lives. This was a critical instruction because for the church in that age, their idolatrous worship was linked to sexual sin. The word for sexual immorality in Greek is *porneia* From which we get the English word porn, as in pornography or pornographic. Biblically this includes any sexual activity outside the covenant of a marriage between a man and woman. Though the outward worship of idols is not seen in our culture like then, the Christian is to leave their life of sin in regard to these things. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
- We are to learn to control our bodies in holy and honorable ways.** vs. 4,5 I like that the KJV uses the word *vessel* for *body*. In a nautical context one can refer to *sailing vessels*. What other objects are referred to as vessels?

How does the use of this word clarify the relationship between the body, soul and spirit? \_\_\_\_\_

What does it mean that we are to control our bodies in holy and honorable ways? \_\_\_\_\_

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The Christian is to not live a life of passionate lust– what does this mean? \_\_\_\_\_

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- We are to not take advantage of a brother or sister.** vs 6. In pagan life and worship, immoral sexual activity was accepted, expected and even encouraged. It was actually a part of their worship practice. Paul, through his authority as an apostle and agreement with the Old Testament made it clear this was to be a part of the past. The LORD God will punish those who do such things. \_\_\_\_\_  
The old ways of sin, as defined by the LORD God are to be avoided. 1 Cor. 6:9-11

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- We are called to live a pure, holy life.** Vs. 7,8 It is the Holy Spirit who empowers us to live that life.

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- We are called to a different kind of love within the church of Jesus Christ.** vs 9,10 The Loves evident within the church family was not to be *eros*- sexual love within the church but rather *Philos*– brotherly love and *agape*’ selfless love or charity.

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