

## **1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 Sanctification, Part 3: Called to Holiness, Love One Another**

### **Introduction**

1. 1 Thessalonians was Written to New Converts
2. Sanctification: God's Work in You to Compel You and Shape You to Sharpen Your Walk with Him in Obedience of Faith
3. God Works IN You to Produce the Obedience You Do
4. Moralism: Self-Righteous Legalist, Hyper-Religious Pharisee Who Supposedly has it All Together
5. Sinners Cannot Get it Together, They Can be Moral, but their Morality does NOT Please God = No Faith
6. Christ was Perfectly Moral FOR Us = Never Sinned
7. We are Given His Righteousness and The Spirit's Enablement to Walk by Faith in the Lord
8. This needs to Be Understood in Light of Biblical Commands = We Are Not Alone to Fulfill Them!

### **Main Point of 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12**

**Walk and Please God by Your Holiness and Your Love.  
By Your Holiness in Sexual Purity and By Your Love in a Simple, Quiet Life, Characterized by Godly Work.**

### **The Central Basis Of The Text: Please God! (vv 1-2)**

1. *Finally, or Furthermore...* points us back to **3:11-13a**
  - a. Increase in Love
  - b. Blameless in Holiness (High Standard)
2. *Through Jesus...* The Order is From Christ Himself, the Very Will of God for Sanctification
3. Walk in Holiness and Abound in Love to Please God

### **Walk in Holiness (vv 1-8)**

#### **A Congratulatory Word (Verse 1-2)**

1. You are Doing This... You have Embraced the Way of Christ, You have Listened to the Word
2. Pleasing God – Not Appeasing God's Anger, But Obedience through Sheer Delight in His Pleasure

#### **A Command (Verses 3-6a)**

1. Be Sexually Pure (**Matthew 5:8**)
2. Sexual Immorality is in Every Culture, in all Times
3. For the Single and For the Married, this is Important
4. Sin: Fornication, Adultery, Porn, Homo/Bi-Sexuality
5. The Biblical Standard for Sexual Purity = One Man & One Wife for Life (Not a Kill Joy, but the way to Joy)
  - a. Bodily Control and Honor
  - b. Greek Idea: We Must Escape the Physical World, so Bodily Self-Control is Foolishness
  - c. God's Idea: Self-Control is Essential (**1 Cor 6:13**); The Physical World Matters
6. Combat Sexual Immorality: Worship, ANTHEM
7. Reason We Abstain: So We Won't Wrong Others

#### **A Caveat (Warning) (Verses 6b-8)**

1. If Ignored, God is an Avenger of those Wronged
2. Sexual Sin Wounds Deeply, But there is Grace and Mercy From God for Those Who Repent!

#### **Abound In Love (vv 9-12)**

#### **A Congratulatory Word (Verses 9-10)**

1. You are Loving Toward Believers and Non-Believers
2. There is ALWAYS Room for More Growth in Love

#### **A Command (Verse 11)**

1. Live a Simple Quiet Life – Content in the Lord
2. Mind your Own Business
  - a. Remove the Plank before Take Out the Speck
  - b. Confront Sin in Love and in Gentleness
3. Work with Your Hands (Greeks Despised Manual Labor; Part of the Physical World, Desired to Escape)
  - a. God is the Ultimate Materialist – He Worked With His Hands (*Creation, Consummation, Incarnation, Resurrection*)
  - b. We Work Unto the Lord – He's Our Boss!

#### **A Concluding Result (Verse 12)**

1. We will Have the Respect of Outsiders
2. We will Be Dependent on No One