



# FIRST THESSALONIANS

WALK IN A MANNER WORTHY OF GOD

*Today's Scripture Reading:*

---

**1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-8**

---

FIRST  
THESSALONIANS

Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. <sup>2</sup> For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. <sup>3</sup> For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; <sup>4</sup> that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, <sup>5</sup> not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God;

FIRST  
THESSALONIANS

<sup>6</sup> that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. <sup>7</sup> For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. <sup>8</sup> Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

FIRST  
THESSALONIANS



# FIRST THESSALONIANS

WALK IN A MANNER WORTHY OF GOD

- Paul's ongoing reminder of what he originally said (v. 2)
- Sanctification (v. 3)
- Sexuality in the Christian's life (v. 3)

4:1-8

FIRST  
THESSALONIANS

Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. <sup>2</sup> For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. <sup>3</sup> For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; <sup>4</sup> that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, <sup>5</sup> not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God;

4:1-8

FIRST  
THESSALONIANS

<sup>6</sup> that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. <sup>7</sup> For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. <sup>8</sup> Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

4:1-8

FIRST  
THESSALONIANS



<sup>1</sup> Finally, then, brothers, **we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus,** that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more.

4:1-8

FIRST  
THESSALONIANS

**We ask and we urge you**

*What is the point of repetition?*

FIRST  
THESSALONIANS

***In earlier chapters Paul defines his character by the following evidences:***

- A. 1:5: power of the Holy Spirit
- B. 2:2: in a state of being persecuted and shamefully treated and then in boldness, not as men pleasers.
- C. 2:7: like a nursing mother
- D. 2:8: like a doting father
- E. 2:18: longingly, anxious "again and again"

1Thes 4:1 Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us **how you ought to walk and to please God**, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more.

*As believers, the only true expression of genuine faith is obedience*

FIRST  
THESSALONIANS

<sup>1</sup> Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, **just as you are doing**, that you do so more and more.

*This is a positive reinforcement just to assure them that he knows, has seen, and has heard firsthand their walk of faith*

FIRST  
THESSALONIANS

<sup>1</sup> Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, **that you do so more and more.**

Paul's encouragement hits a couple of points:

- A. It's not a one-shot deal but a day to day walk
- B. Old habits die hard - He is addressing Gentiles. New life as in 1 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 8 - walk in new Spirit
- C. Practice makes perfect - develop new spiritual muscle memory
- D. If we don't progress, we will either digress or become stagnate.
- E. Do we quit after mastering first grade, or now that I'm almost 60

3<sup>a</sup> For this is the will of God, your sanctification:

Sanctification, spoken of here by Paul is defined as, the gift of process by which believers, through the power of the Holy Spirit change, grow and seek, via obedience to walk in and increase in holiness.

- A. At the new birth, salvation, or being born again, we instantaneously became holy (set apart), but there is also a practical process of becoming in an earthly sense, "holier".
- B. It is not optional and it has bearing on our eternal life, as evidenced in the following scriptures.

4:1-8

FIRST  
THESSALONIANS

**Romans 6:22:** But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, **the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.**

**Matthew 5:30:** And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. **For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.**

C. We are in a fight for our spiritual lives

FIRST  
THESSALONIANS



<sup>3b</sup> that you abstain from sexual immorality;

4:1-8

FIRST  
THESSALONIANS

<sup>4</sup> that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, <sup>5</sup> not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God;

- Self-control, led by a pure motivation, leads to holiness. God is honored especially as a holy life contrasts the worlds values. "Not in passion as the gentiles, who do not know God". **Live a life that shows conclusively that you KNOW God.**
- Obedience and disobedience clarify our faith or lack of it. What practical proof do you have that you are a believer? **That as an act of choice, you obey Him.**

<sup>6</sup> that no one transgress and **wrong his brother** in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you.

*The sin of lust and sexual immorality is a sin against both God (v.8)  
and man (v.6)*

4:1-8

FIRST  
THESSALONIANS

**Let's take 3 examples and discuss how they transgress  
against your fellow man**

*In the Screwtape Letters book page 98, Screwtape instructs his apprentice to "just as we pick out and exaggerate the pleasure of **eating** to produce **gluttony** ...twist it into a demand for absolute novelty" what will happen then is it will **diminish pleasure, while increasing desire.**" RZ*

# 1. Pornography

- A. Jesus says if you lust, **it's the same** as committing the act.
- B. Because of the secret nature of this, transparency rarely exists causing deep and strong roots of cyclic shame
- C. Seems to be justified, in a perverted sense, because no "act" transpires.

# 1. Pornography

- D. Do you honestly think, the women involved in the videos, are living a life in God's image and freedom? **Your choice of supporting pornography logistically enslaves them to a virtually inescapable bondage and horror.**
- E. Your selfish desires have given opportunity for sadistically evil men **to profit without scrutiny.**

## 2. Fornication

- A. Men the onus is on you. **You are the leader and responsible party**
- B. Women dressing appropriately
- C. Don't view a woman as something to be conquered, but to be cherished
- D. Pregnancy can lead to an abortion or a single mom whose life is altered in such an incredibly destructive way
- E. How dare you be so selfish!

### 3. Adultery

- A. When does it start?
- B. There is a Niagara Falls type cascading destructive path that flows from these selfish choices.
- C. Broken Covenant that mirrored our covenant with God
- D. Jesus says, "only because of the hardness of your heart does God even consider allowing divorce offered by Moses"
- E. Great destruction is caused in both offender's lives
  - Broken marriage, wounded hearts, trust destroyed, witness as a believer



### 3. Adultery

F. If children are involved, multiple by a 10x factor.

- Imagine the blueprint you have impressed upon them. Incredibly difficult and confusing family dynamics. Rarely have I ever seen true repentance in the midst of the sin, but more often than not some sort of justification or deflecting the responsibility.

G. Great financial distress i.e. mortgages, child support, 2 family cost differentials

### 3. Adultery

H. Emotional/spiritual residual baggage as destroyed lives try to find stability, hope, reason (why did God allow), future relationships

<sup>6b</sup> because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. <sup>7</sup> For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. <sup>8</sup> Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

*Do you want God's vengeance on you? Will you live in the power and freedom afforded you by the cross? Will you live in the power and wisdom afforded you by the Holy Spirit?*

4:1-8

FIRST  
THESSALONIANS

# APPLICATION

1. Find a way to chart your sanctification growth. Ask your spouse, a friend, your discipler, MACC Group
2. Set goals where possible. Limit TV intake, determine what you believe God sees as holy and avoid the rest
3. Slow and steady wins the race

# BENEDICTION

**Jude 1:24-25:** Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, <sup>25</sup> to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

FIRST  
THESSALONIANS



# FIRST THESSALONIANS

WALK IN A MANNER WORTHY OF GOD