

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Pleasing God
1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Last time...standing fast in the Lord in the midst of affliction to increase and abound in His love
Also, discipleship is mission-critical for the Body of Christ toward that end

This time...holy living before God and man i.e. pleasing God
We will be in 1 Thes 4

v1a Furthermore then:

The purposes of this letter to the church at Thessalonica are to

1. reassure the believers about the return of Jesus Christ
2. encourage the believers in their affliction (Acts 14:22) to continue in the faith until then

The theme of the letter is the promised return of Jesus Christ for His own,
those who follow Him
John 14:1-3

Thus far in the letter

Ch 1:9-10

Ch 2:19

Ch 3:12-13

Without chapter and verse markings in the original manuscript, this letter flows
and we will see that the promised return of Jesus Christ

- is to inspire holy living...to please God
- is a mystery – the plan of God revealed in time i.e. a revelation

v1b-2 ought to walk and to please God:

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Paul:

beseeches...asks, desires

exhorts...implores, calls

the brethren...the family of God, the Body of Christ

by the Lord Jesus...in the name/power/authority of Jesus Christ,
the Head of the Body Whose will the parts of the Body do

how they should live to please God, as commanded by Jesus

1. love

John 3:16

Matt 22:36-40

John 13:34-35

Rom 5:8

1 John 4:19-21

2. believe (faith)

John 6:27-29

Heb 11:6

When we love someone, we naturally

- tell them
- show them
- want to please them

We have no greater love than God's love for us

Therefore, it is only rational/logical that we love Him preeminently and live to please Him..."show and tell" of our love for the Lord God

Rom 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God

Eccl 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man

Rom 13:10

ye would abound more and more:

And to live to please our Father more and more and more...

- to never stop growing in the breadth and depth of our love for Him
- to never stop believing what He has said (His promises)

God's love has no bounds...to us, in us, and thru us

We love the Lord our God and we love each other as much as He loves us

Living to please God...holy living, living separate from the world and separate unto the Lord...is

- not performance-based...performance/works by us to get God to be pleased with us, thereby earning God's pleasure
- faith-based...the faith **of** Jesus Christ, in Whom the Father is well-pleased
- love-based...
 - the love of the Father for the Son and the Son for the Father
 - the love of the Father for His children and His children for the Father
 - the love of the Bridegroom for His Bride and the love of the Bride for her Bridegroom
 - a life of love, being (doing) who we are – loved; loved by the Father Who is already pleased with us, because we have believed Him and accepted His love

1 Cor 13:13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity,
these three; but the greatest of these *is*
charity

John 15:9-13, 17

v3a this is the will of God, your sanctification:

So what follows are some “Christian Living Basics” that please God,
things that are

- the will of God for us...the answer to the question:
What is God's will for my life?
- worked into us by the Holy Spirit for our sanctification
 - separateness from the world and unto God
 - “purification”, the process of purifying change accomplished by God with our continuous surrender to the will of God
 - the mind of Christ renewing our carnal mind

1 Cor 1:29-31 no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord

John 17:19 for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth

Then Jesus went to the testing in the Garden of Gethsemane:
Not my will be done but Your will be done

“Christian Living Basics” in living a life of love to please God, given to us in
v3b-12, are connected to “the will of God, your sanctification”
by “that”

- “the purpose of”
- “to the intent of”
- “the result being”

v3b-5 abstain from fornication:

1st “Christian Living Basic” in holy living to please God:

“that” we abstain from fornication, from any sexual activity outside the
God-ordained confines of the marriage contract
(God’s contract involving 3 persons – 1 Lord + 2 servants)
that we flee sexual sin like Joseph fled Potiphar’s wife

This is written from Corinth, a wild and “loose” city, to new believers living in
the Roman Empire and in the Greek culture, both of which reveled in
rampant “anything goes” sexual promiscuity and revolving door marriages
(which prevail in American culture now)

But in God’s culture,

1 Cor 6:13b-20

Fornication is a major part of worldly living, but is to have no part in
Godly/holy living

“That” we know how to

- possess...provide for, acquire
- our vessels

1. “wife”

The “anything goes” culture was for males since women
were 2nd class citizens...but God says

1 Peter 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with *them*
according to knowledge, giving honour unto
the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as
being heirs together of the grace of life; that
your prayers be not hindered

Fornication is shameful, displeasing, to both the Lord God
and to our closest neighbor (spouse)

2. our own body

2 Cor 4:7

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels

We are purchased by the blood of God (Acts 20:28)

Therefore, we are stewards of God's possession, our

body

The body is to be used exclusively for God's

purposes,

not our own lustful purposes

Our physical body is like a vessel of worship in the

Tabernacle...holy and set apart unto God,

not for "common"/defiled usage

- in sanctification...purity, holiness
- in honor...dignity due both the Lord God and our closest neighbor (spouse), a child of the Living God and King

Rather than the "dog-nity" of the world, fornicating like dogs

- the lust of concupiscence...inordinate and unrestrained longing for forbidden things (forbidden by a loving God because they are self-inflicted wounds bringing physical and relational harm)
- the pornographic images and worship practices of idols
- as is the way of the worldly, the unbelievers...Eph 4:17-20

v6-8 defraud his brother:

2nd "Christian Living Basic" in holy living to please God:

We are to be true and honest, in words and deeds, with each other

We are to not defraud anyone at any time

"to overreach, to covet, to take advantage of", all self-centered

Ex 20:17 do not covet house, wife, servant, possessions, anything

1 Cor 6:7-8 Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather *suffer yourselves to be defrauded*? Nay, ye do wrong, and defraud, and that *your* brethren.

Take the wrong, be defrauded/wronged (without defrauding anyone)...

because vengeance of wrongs for a child of His being taken advantage of belongs to...the Lord (Heb 10:30-31)

Wide-eyed emoji...for both the one wronging and the one wronged

As Paul taught and warned of when he was with them for those 3 weeks

The God Who so loves us is not calling us back to living the way we were before
we surrendered to His love and His Holy Spirit indwelt and sealed us,
He is calling, leading us into living how He is...holy

1 Peter 1:14-16 As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves
according to the former lusts in your ignorance:
But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye
holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is
written, Be ye holy; for I am holy

holiness: “purification”
same Greek word translated “sanctification” in v3-4

Those that do not believe or reject what the Holy Spirit is saying thru Paul are
not believing and rejecting the Almighty God

“Does what I have said offend you?
Hey, I didn’t write this, God did.
If you don’t like, take it up with Him.
Your beef is not with me but with God.
And good luck with that!”

v9-10 brotherly love:

3rd “Christian Living Basic” for holy living to please God:
brotherly love, the “Royal Law” (James 2:8)

In this, the church at Thessalonica was thriving
But am I and are we?
Self-examination is needed (2 Cor 13:5)

The “that” with brotherly love is to increase more and more
There is never enough love given
There is always room for more selfless, self-last, “inseparable” love
As long as we inhabit these vessels/tents, we never “arrive” when it comes
to love, we are to always grow in love
We can always grow in John 13:34-35

v11-12 study to be quiet:

4th “Christian Living Basic” to holy living to please God:
Be still, mind your own business, and get to work

“that” you study...labor to, be eager to

1. be quiet...be still in a noisy and hostile world

Ps 46 “Listen to My voice, not the many voices in world.”
Rom 12:18

God highly values a meek and quiet spirit

1 Peter 3:4 ...the hidden man of the heart, in that which
is not corruptible, *even the ornament* of a
meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight
of God of great price.

2. do your own business...mind your own business, not other people’s
business

1 Tim 5:13 they learn *to be* idle, wandering about from house to
house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and
busybodies, speaking things which they ought not
1 Peter 4:15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or *as a*
thief, or *as an evildoer*, or as a busybody in other
men's matters.

None of us are the Holy Spirit

All of us are unfinished business of God, works in process
So let’s focus on what the Lord wants to do in our lives and
let Him worry about everyone else

After all, we all have our own “appointment” to focus on!

Rom 14:4, 10-13

2 Cor 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment
seat of Christ; that every one may receive
the things *done* in *his* body, according to
that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad

Another wide-eyed emoji

3. work...work is a blessing from God; He gave Adam a job!

Ps 128:1-2

Prov 14:23

Eccl 2:24

Eccl 3:13

Ecc1 5:12a

Be Christlike in the workplace
Have a strong work ethic – be the best employee your boss has,
be the best boss your people have

Don't be lazy

Prov 13:4

Prov 20:4

Prov 21:25

“that” you may walk/live honestly...decently, following Jesus before unbelievers
Living holy, loving lives pleasing to God is a witness to those in darkness
and in bondage to death

Our strong work ethic is a witness to the world...a good witness
Taking unemployment benefits from the Gov't because it pays more than
a job is also a witness to the world...a bad witness

2 Thes 3:10-12

Application/Lessons

Holy living in Jesus Christ...a lifestyle of selfless, self-last love of God and others

- v1 How we ought to walk/live and to please God
Rev 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and
power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure
they are and were created

Never getting enough of Jesus Christ in our lives
Always growing in our relationship with the Lord

- v3 This is the will of God, our sanctification...that we
- abstain from fornication
 - possess our wife/body in sanctification
 - defraud no one ever
 - increase more and more in brotherly love
 - labor to be still, minding our own business, and working hard
 - walk Christlike before unbelievers

Jesus Christ is my Example

I am to be an example to my wife, my children, my grandchildren, you
You are to be an example to those in your sphere of influence

Does my life please the Lord Who is pleased with me
(in Christ, in Whom He is well-pleased)?

An abundant life, life “increasing” is a life of submission to the will of God

Christian Living...a work in process...

is living who we are

- children of the Living God
- set free from sin, free to serve the Lord and not our flesh
- new creatures in Christ
- in Whom the Father is well-pleased

not who we were

- dead in our sin
- children of disobedience
- children of wrath

before God and man, believer and unbeliever alike
more and more each day

Rom 13:11-14

How we live is witness of Christ to the unbelievers who are watching us
You may be the only Bible some people will ever read...
how does your life represent God?