

**June 7, 2017**  
**“Avoiding Culture Traps”**  
**1 Thes 4:1-8**

**I. Pleasing God: Principle (1-2)**

- A. Transition “*Finally then,*”** Before you poke fun at preachers who say “**finally**” when they’re still a long way from being finished, understand that the use of this Greek word is transitional, pointing toward a new section; it means “as for the rest.”
  
- B. Telling “*brothers, we ask and encourage you in the Lord Jesus, that as you have received from us*” (1) “*For you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus*” (2)**
  
- C. Triumph “as you are doing-do so even more” (1)**
  
- D. Trust “*how you must walk*” (1)** Moffat translates this phrase “***the way you are to live.***”
  
- E. Test “*you must...please God*” (1)**

**II. Pleasing God: Purity (3-8)**

- A. Purity “*For this is God’s will, your sanctification, that you abstain from sexual immorality*” (3)**
  
- B. Possession “*so that each of you knows how to control his own body in sanctification and honor, not in passion with lustful desires like the Gentiles who don’t know God*” (5)**
  - 1. Universal “*each of you*” (4)**
  - 2. Understanding “*knows how to control his own body*” (4)**
  - 3. Unblemished “*in sanctification and honor,*”**
  - 4. Unflinching – “*not in passion with lustful desires like the Gentiles who don’t know God*” (5).**

**C. Portent** (6) Here is a warning with consequences of wrong behavior.

1. Don't be selfish "***one should not transgress against***"
2. Don't be dishonest "***one should not...defraud his brother***" The Living Bible paraphrases "***that you never cheat in this matter by taking another man's wife.***" Phillips says "***you cannot break this rule without in some way cheating your fellow man.***"
3. Don't doubt God's justice "***because the Lord is an avenger of all these offenses.***"
4. Don't ignore our warning "***as we also previously told you and warned you***"

**D. Pronouncement** Paul gives two additional reasons to avoid immorality.

1. "***For God has not called us to impurity, but to sanctification.***" (7)
2. "***Therefore, the person who rejects this does not reject man, but God who also gave you His Holy Spirit***" (8)

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