



Bethany Bible Study & Discussion

I Thessalonians (Part-4) (Chapter 4)

Sanctification (1-8) What was Paul's goal in exhorting the believers? What is God's will? How must we respond to God's will? What do we mean by sanctification? How is it different from Salvation? To what areas of our life does sanctification apply? How does sanctification benefit believers? What is God's will for married and singles in the area of physical intimacy? What does the "vessel" refer to? How will God deal with wrongdoers? What is our calling? Who are we rejecting when we disobey God's Word? How can we practice Sanctification? When does the process of Sanctification end?

Love & Personal conduct (9-12): What does Paul urge the believers to do? Was love missing among believers in Thessalonica church? If love is missing in a church, what does it show and what will be the result? What are some practical instructions given in verses 11 & 12?

Personal Reflection: Do you see the fruit of sanctification in your life?

Chapter 4

Sanctification (1-8)

Love for Others (9-10)

Personal conduct (11-12)

Return of Christ (13-15)

Sanctification

What was Paul's goal in exhorting the believers? What is God's will? How must we respond to God's will? What do we mean by sanctification? How is it different from Salvation? To what areas of our life does sanctification apply? How does sanctification benefit believers? What is God's will for married and singles in the area of physical intimacy? What does the "vessel" refer to? How will God deal with wrongdoers? What is our calling? Who are we rejecting when we disobey God's Word? How can we practice Sanctification? When does the process of Sanctification end?

furthermore,

Furthermore,
(1)

Paul picks up on his closing
thoughts from Chapter 3 ...
how does chapter 3 end?

Focus of Paul's prayer (3:10-13):

Meet in-person (10,11) to minister to their spiritual needs

They may Increase and abound in **love** toward one another and all men (12)

They will be blameless in **holiness** at the return of **Christ** (13)

Furthermore,

Furthermore, then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more (1)

Paul's focus: I exhort you, I beseech you -

How you ought to walk and to please God

Result: Abound more and more (an abundant, rich, overflowing spiritual life!)

- **Goal of Jesus Christ:** I do always those things that please God (**John 4:29**)
- Our walk should be pleasing to God to experience abundant spiritual growth and spiritual blessing
- Noah, Enoch walked with God (**Genesis 5:24, 6:9**)

Reminder

For ye know what
commandments we gave
you by the Lord Jesus (2)

Maybe it is not new teaching

But a reminder of what Paul had taught them before.

We tend to forget (!) so good to be reminded of God's expectations of how we should walk.

God's will

For this is the will of God,
even your sanctification,
that ye should abstain
from fornication: (3)

Sanctification

= to be set apart

= to be Holy & Pure


(For the Lord, and for our spouse)

Ye shall be holy: Leviticus 19:2

Positionally, we are justified and made holy through the work on the cross (I Corinthians 1:2, Hebrews 10:10)

God expects (practical) holiness in all areas of our life:

Our Sight | Speech | Thoughts | Hearing | Actions



Holiness must be our
fashion!

¹⁴ As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: ¹⁵ But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; ¹⁶ Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy (**I Peter 1:14-16**)

Will people observe holiness in our conversation and lifestyle?

This is God's will

For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: (3)

No room to negotiate with God's will

Holiness (in all areas) is God's will for believers

Here, Paul applies holiness to the area of sexual behaviors(sexual immorality is a sin against the Holy Spirit, and against our own bodies, I Corinthians 6:15-20)

Our bodies ... His temple

¹⁵ Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid.

¹⁶ What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. ¹⁷ But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.

¹⁸ Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

¹⁹ What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

²⁰ For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

God's will for married and singles

If Married, be faithful to your spouse

If Single, abstain from intimate relationships

Violation of these direct teachings explain much of the problems among today's married couples and singles.

sanctification & fornication

Pursue Sanctification (Holiness) and
Abstain from Fornication (sexual immorality)

Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge (**Hebrews 13:4**) (You shalt not commit adultery ... **Exodus 20:14**)

Intimacy in a relationship is permitted only after Marriage between a Man & a Woman (Genesis 2:24, I Corinthians 7:2; not homosexuality, Romans 1:26-27).

our vessel

That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; (4)

We must possess our “vessel” in sanctification and honor

“Our body” can be seen as our vessel, which holds something very precious ...

our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 6:19)

So Honor God with your bodies (I Corinthians 6:20)

Our bodies belong to the Lord. We were created for His pleasure (Revelation 4:11).

Vessel

Our body

- But we have this treasure in **earthen vessels**, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us (**II Corinthians 4:7**)

Our wife

- Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the **weaker vessel** (**I Peter 3:7**)

all the **holy vessels** that *were* in the tabernacle (**I King 8:4**)

Believers have no excuse!

Not in the lust of
concupiscence, even as the
Gentiles which know not
God: (5)

Gentiles

- have the excuse of ignorance
 - Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do (Luke 23:34)

Believers

- No excuse
- If we sin, we must immediately confess and forsake our sinful ways
 - God is rich in mercy and will forgive our moral failures (Ephesians 2:4, 1 John 1:9, Isaiah 1:18)
 - David repented | was reconciled & restored

Lord will avenge wrongdoers

That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified (6)

God is Just

Wrongdoing against believers will be avenged by the Lord

- Wrongdoing/abuse could refer to: Adultery in Christian Marriage, Sexually immoral abuses by those in position of authority, Rape and Incest.

Our calling

For God hath not called us
unto uncleanness, but unto
holiness (7)

Holiness

What if you chose to disobey?

He therefore that despiseth,
despiseth not man, but God,
who hath also given unto us
his holy Spirit (8)

You are rejecting God (not man)

Why would you reject the one who
sacrificed His life for you?

Why would you quench or grieve
the Holy Spirit?

Rejection will have Consequences
of Chastisement!

Salvation & Sanctification

Salvation is a one-time experience
(Romans 10:9-10)

Sanctification is a lifetime process
that enables us to be transformed in
His image, and attain spiritual
maturity

- Great working tools for our sanctification: Acts 2:42 (Word | Communion | Prayer | Fellowship)

Practicing Sanctification

Sanctification cannot be achieved through a legalistic approach of laws or following a 10-step plan or using our willpower or making January 1st resolutions. It must be:

- **prompted by** our love for the Lord & giving Him preeminence in our life; and
- **powered by** the Holy Spirit

Our sanctification honors and pleases
Trinity (God-3, Son – 2, and Holy Spirit – verse 8)

Secret of blessings

God's will

+ Our Obedience

= Heavenly Blessings

Sanctification (1-8)

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Love (9-10)

What does Paul urge the believers to do?

Was love missing among believers in Thessalonica church?

If love is missing in a church, what does it show and what will be the result?

Love

⁹ But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another. ¹⁰ And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more;

Love all brethren in Macedonia

Increase more and more

Conduct

¹¹ And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; ¹² That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.



Be quiet and Mind your own business



Work with your hands &
Be honest
Then you will lack nothing!

Personal Reflection

Do you see the fruit of sanctification in your life?



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