

How Can I Live to Really Please God?

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Intro:

1. Benedict's Scrapbook: a newspaper offered a prize for the best answer to this question, "Why is a newspaper like a good woman?"
2. The winning answer, "A newspaper is like a good woman because every man should have his own & not look at his neighbor's!"
3. When your life is lived for the purpose of pleasing God & presenting a positive Christian witness - you will benefit by having a meaningful & joyful life.
4. So - How can I live my life in order to really please God?

I. v1-8 - Keep Pure Relationships with One Another

A. What does purity mean?

1. **v3** - That you should be **sanctified** (ἁγιασμός) = separated apart because of your spirituality.
2. **v3** - That you should avoid **sexual immorality** (πορνεία) = fornication. **ILL: The difference between adultery & fornication.**
3. **v4** - That you should learn to control your own body.

B. Why is this important?

1. **v1** - It is necessary (δεῖ). **We instructed you how (it is necessary) to live in order to please God.**
2. **v2** - It is a command. **For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.**
3. **v3-4** - It is God's will.
 - a. **Ex 20:14** - It's the 7th Commandment. **You shall not commit adultery.**
 - b. **Job 31:1-2** - **I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl.** For what is man's lot from God above, his heritage from the Almighty on high?
 - c. The Lord's take on this. **Matt 5:27-28** - **You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.**
4. **v6** - Your relationship with your Christian brothers will not be hampered.
5. **v7** - Your call (the cross) to be a Christian was for the purpose of living a pure life.

II. v9-12 - Keep Love Relationships with One Another

A. What does love mean?

1. **v10** - Love more than you're loving now.
 - a. You can't love too many people. **ILL: Susanne Wesley when asked which of her 19 children she loved the most.**
 - b. You have to work at loving: in your marriage, to unfriendly people, etc.
2. **v11-12** - Love must be expressed in practical living. In Thessalonica church members were quitting their jobs & sitting around waiting for the Lord to return.
3. How are you to wait for the Lord's return?
 - a. What do you do with your life? Live it in consideration, respect & love for others.
 - b. What do you do with your thoughts? Quietly mind your own business.
 - c. What do you do with your time? Get a job - "work with your hands" - so you will be respected & not be dependent on other people.

B. Why is this important? - v9

1. You were “taught by God”.

a. Through the Lord Himself. Jn 15:17 - This is my command: Love each other.

b. Through the Apostle John. I Jn 4:21 - And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

c. Through the Apostle Paul. Eph 5:2 - live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

2. You were born again into a family relationship.

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