

JESUS IS COMING!
A Life That Pleases God
I Thessalonians 4:1-8

Introduction

1. When you love someone deeply you will do all you can to please him/her.
2. In I Thessalonians 4 the Apostle Paul urges believers to demonstrate their love for God by living a life that is pleasing to God.

I Thessalonians 4:1-8 - 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. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; 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. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

The Life That Pleases God

1. Followers of Christ are to live a life that pleases God. Vs. 1
 - The conflict: our natural bent is to please ourselves. Rom. 3:11-12 - *no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.*
 - Our calling: to deny self and to follow Christ. Luke 9:23 - *And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.*
2. A life that pleases God conforms to the will of God. Vs 3
 - The will of God is not left to feelings, circumstances, or guess work.
 - The Spirit of God uses the Word of God to direct the people of God in the will of God. II Tim. 3:16-17 - *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.*

3. The will of God for followers of Christ is to live a life of holiness. Vs. 3
 - Holiness means we are set apart from the world for God's glory.
 - Progressive sanctification is putting off the old sinful ways of living and putting on the character of Christ. Eph. 4:22-24 - *to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.*

4. A life of holiness includes abstaining from sexual immorality. Vs. 3-5
 - **God's will for marriage** is outlined in Gen. 1:23-24 - *And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds--livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so.*
 - Anything outside of this plan is immoral sin. Gal. 5:18-19 - *But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality,*

5. Sexual immorality is a sin against people and against God. Vs. 6-8
 - Immorality uses others to satisfy sinful lusts.
 - Immorality is rebellion against God and will be punished by Him.

What's Next?

1. **Listen to the Spirit's call, turn away from your selfishness and sin, and turn to the Lord Jesus Christ for forgiveness of sins and a new life TODAY!**

2. Follower of Christ, live the life God called you to live.
 - Seek out His will by studying His Word.
 - Turn away from the immoral traps of this world.
 - **Say no to the devil's way and yes to God's way.**

Moral purity is to live by God's original design. Josh McDowell
(paraphrased)