

# A Life Pleasing to God

October 17, 2021 – 1Thessalonians 4:1-12

**The First letter to the church at Thessalonica (2<sup>nd</sup> most important city in Greece) lays out a brief, understandable, set of guiding principles to live a life pleasing to God- 1Th 4:1-2** *“Finally then, brethren, we beseech and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that, as ye received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, even as ye do walk,--that ye abound more and more. For ye know what charge we gave you through the Lord Jesus.”*

1. **Beseech (2065)**- to request, beg
2. **Exhort (3870)**- to call upon someone to do something, to encourage to do something.
3. **Ought (1163)**- necessary, what is needed, inevitable in the nature of things.
4. **Walk (4043)**- the path walked, the manner and circumstances that one lives their life
5. **Please (700)**- to strive to please, to adjust to the opinion, desire, and interest of another for their satisfaction.

**I. Guide One: Abstain from Fornication:** 1Th 4:3 *“For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye abstain from fornication;”*

1. **Abstain (567)**- to hold one's self off, refrain, abstain.
2. **Fornication (4202)**- all sexual intercourse not with your own husband or wife. Applies whether married or not.
3. **Sex in marriage is honorable and the will of God, but outside of marriage it is evil-** Hebrews 13:4 *“Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.”*
4. **It is the habit of people not ruled by God to promote forbidden sex-1Th 4:4-5** *“that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:”*
  - a. **Concupiscence (1939)**- desire, craving, longing desire for what is forbidden.
5. **Marriage Defined by God -Matthew 19:4-6** *“And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.”*
  - a. This definition has existed since Adam and Eve - **Genesis 1:1, 1:26-27, 2:20-25**
  - b. **Consists of one husband (male) and one wife (female)**
  - c. **Unified-** intimately join in all ways acting as if one person
  - d. **God does the joining**
  - e. **All Persons warned not to fracture that union since it is intended to last until death- Romans 7:1-3**

**II. Guide Two: Don't cheat anyone-** 1Th 4:6-8 *“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. For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.”*

1. **Defraud (4122)**- to take a greater share, take advantage of another,
2. **Cheating is taken personally by God as disrespect-**
  - a. **Despiseth (114)**- to set aside, disregard, make void, to reject or slight.

**III. Guide Three: Have Brotherly love towards your fellow Christian-** 1Th 4:9-10 *“But as touching brotherly love (5630) ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love (25) one another. 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;”*

1. **Brotherly Love** (5360-phileo)- Love between family members, affection and loyalty: a feeling based love differing from **love** (25-agapao) an intellectually purposed love taught in places like 1Cor 13.
2. **If you have the love (25) Jesus taught**, then you will naturally develop family love (5360) for fellow Christians.
3. **Love is what motivated them** to help out fellow Christians in other locations.

**IV. Guide Four: Mind your own business-** 1Th 4:11 *“And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;”*

1. **That Ye Study** (5389)- motivated by honor to bring something to pass
2. **Quiet** (2270)- to rest, to be still, tranquil, to lead a quiet life of those who are not running hither and thither, but stay at home and mind their own business.
3. **To Do** (4238)- to perform repeatedly or habitually, to practice
4. **Your Own Business** (2398)- that which pertains to your own self, (not another’s, not public, not common to others, yours)
5. **Work** (2038)- to labor, to work, exertion or effort directed to produce or accomplish something.
6. **Don’t Be this Guy-** 2Th 3:10-12 *“For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.”*
7. **Don’t be this Women-** 1Timothy 5:13-14 *“And withal 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. I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.”*
8. **Don’t be this Child-** 2 Timothy 3:1-4 *“But know this, that in the last days grievous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, haughty, railers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, implacable, slanderers, without self-control, fierce, no lovers of good, traitors, headstrong, puffed up, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God;*

**V. Guide Five: Treat non-Christians in an honorable manner-** 1Th 4:12 *“That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.”*

1. **Honestly** (2156)- in a decent, honorable manner
2. **We do not treat non-Christians as enemies with no value or no right to fair treatment as some do-** **Romans 12:17-21** *“Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.”*

**Conclusion: Follow these Principles** and you won’t find yourself missing something essential in your life.

1. **Abstain from fornication.**
2. **Don’t cheat anyone.**
3. **Have brotherly love towards your fellow Christian.**
4. **Mind your own business.**
5. **Treat non-Christians in an honorable manner.**