

## Study 4

### Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

**Objective:** 1 Thessalonians is an encouragement to all believers to continue living lives worthy of God. It is a book that reminds the believer of the essentials of the Christian faith.

#### **Opening Questions:**

1. Have you ever tried to do something over and over, and just couldn't do it?
2. If you had to name one thing that you've done in your life that you're most proud of, what would it be?

#### **Body of this Week's Study:**

This week we will be studying a passage where Paul focuses on what it looks like to live a life that pleases God. While he is speaking to a specific situation and church, much that he writes can be applied to our lives. Specifically, he writes about avoiding sexual immorality, living a sanctified holy life, and increasing our brotherly love. Paul concentrates on real concrete ways for us to live a holy life. But as Dallas Willard, a theologian, puts it, "it is who we are in our thoughts, feelings, dispositions, and choices- in the inner life- that counts.

Profound transformation there is the only thing that can definitely conquer outward evil"

#### **Text Questions:**

1. According to this passage, what is God's will?
2. What is sanctification?
3. Why do you think Paul chose to address sexual immorality and purity?
4. What does Paul mean when he says, "...that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in a passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God, and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him" (v. 4-6)?

5. What are your thoughts on v. 8?

**Application Questions:**

1. How does sanctification and avoiding sexual immorality affect you?

2. How does it affect those around you?

3. In v. 11-12, Paul is writing to a specific situation in Thessalonica. Some of the people in the church were taking advantage of other members and living off of charity. Paul speaks directly to them and tells them to be responsible and develop a good work ethic. How would that apply to us today?

4. What does it look like for you to have a holy and honorable personal life?

**Creative Implementation for the Week/Spiritual Exercise:**

Take a few days or a week to read through one of the gospels. While reading, write down ideas or thoughts to answer this question, “In what ways did Jesus lead an honorable and holy life?”. Brainstorm a few ways that you could follow His example.

**Memory Verse:**

“It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God, and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him”- 1 Thess. 4:3-6