

**I. Pleasing - 1 Thess 4:1-2**

1. The point is to “please” God (**verse 1**)
  2. We ask and urge you to do more and more
    - Rea -growing effort and push
    - reject spiritual complacency
  3. He gives instructions by “the authority of”
    - compare verse 1 where he appealed to the authority of the Lord
    - Rea -discuss the authority of SS teachers, and preachers - do we have any?
- Re Questions and Ideas:**
1. We might be curious as to how to “please” God
  2. Growth pleasing God
    - you never reach a plateau where you quit growing - if you have you are not right
  3. What “authority” does the local church have?

**II. Holy - 1 Thess 4:3-8**

1. The will of God is clear on some things (**verse 3**)
  - Rea -the Bible seldom says “this is the Lord’s will” but it does so here
2. Two things
  - A. Avoid sexual immorality - sex outside the biblical model (within marriage)
    - promiscuity was accepted during these times
  - B. Be sanctified - purity of life - holiness
    - Rea -discuss ways in which we can be more and more “sanctified”
3. Verse 3 goes into greater depth as to what is “sanctification” and sexual purity
  - A. Control your own body
  - B. Requires dependence on God
4. Learn to control - 2 things (**verse 4**)
  - Rea A. Learn - not an overnight proposition
  - B. Control - instead of your body controlling you
  - C. Then the contrast in verse 4 is helpful
5. Not... in passionate lust like pagans (**verse 5**)
  - you’d expect this from them - they do not know God
  - also you ought not (so) wrong or take advantage of your brother or sister (**verse 6**)
  - not demeaning, manipulating or exploiting another person
  - Rea -includes “Me Too” movement things, and sexual trafficking - not to mention the exploitation of young boys in the Catholic church or the Epstein debacle
6. God will punish all who do these things
7. We were “called” to something else (**verse 7**)
  - called to live holy lives
8. To reject this means you are rejecting God (**verse 8**)
  - the same God who gives you His Holy Spirit
9. Paul was addressing a pattern of living not a lapse into sexual misconduct
  - Rea -my take - anyone who so “lapses” should never be allowed to be a leader in ministry again... the stakes are too high

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. How do people get into this lifestyle?
2. What about porn?
3. Discuss Epstein and Prince Andrew
  - how do these “get away” with it? - shouldn’t those who allow it also be held accountable?
  - for me... to allow (or cover it up) it is worse than doing it!

**III. Daily - 1 Thess. 4:9-12**

1. Love for one another (**verse 9**)
  - through love we minister to one another
  - “love” is philadelphias literally meaning brotherly love
2. They were “taught by God” to love one another
  - they already knew about love... so Paul did not find it necessary to remind them
3. In fact you love all throughout Macedonia (**verse 10**)
  - do so, more and more
  - they are “urged” to do so more and more
- Rea 4. Your ambition (**verse 11**)
  - does this imply they are not loving enough?
  - to lead a quiet life
  - to mind your own business
  - to work with your own hands
- Rea 5. Is this a “wallflower” lifestyle?
  - isn’t it true that a quiet lifestyle speaks louder than a immoral lifestyle
6. It will “win the respect” of outsiders (**verse 12**)
  - outriders watch Christ followers
7. You will not be dependent on anyone
  - Paul so rose above accusations from anyone
- Rea -doing speaks louder than talking
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
  1. This is a hard passage - doing is harder than talking
  2. Doing is so... “daily”
  3. We are on a quest for larger and bigger pulpits and making a big impact through more and more people who are “followers”