

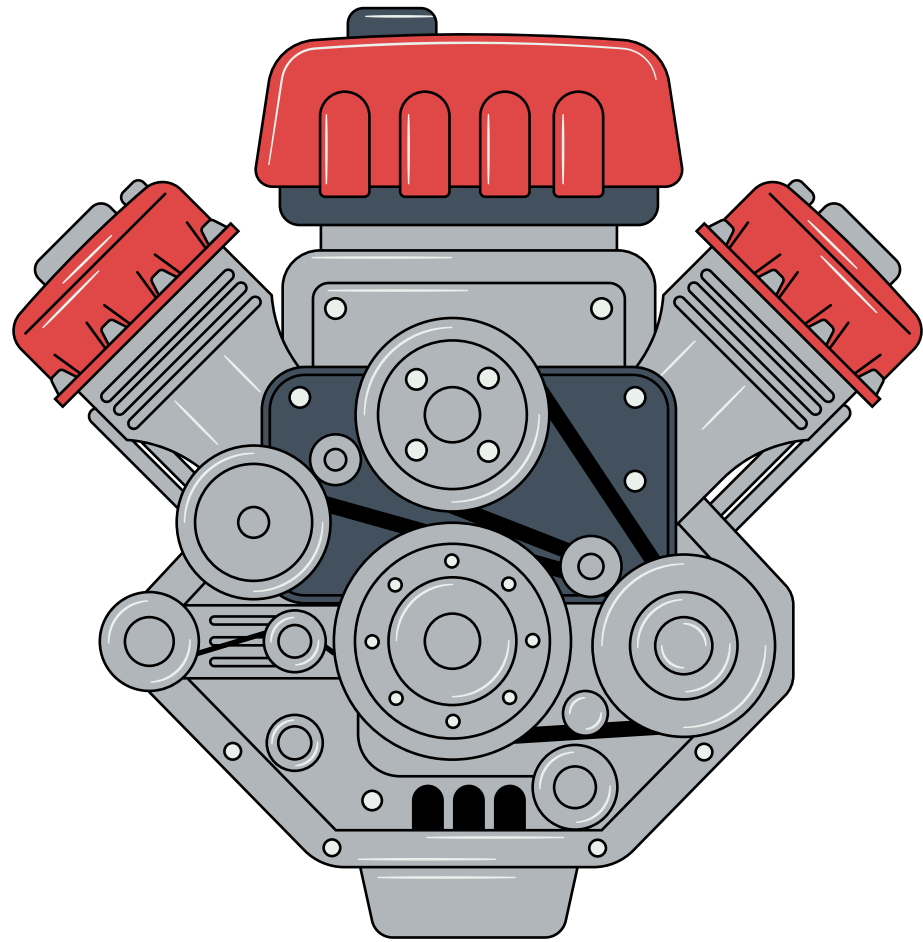
TO THE CHURCH OF THE

THESSALONIANS,

GRACE TO YOU AND PEACE

The Model Church

The Engine of a Healthy Church



FAITH + LOVE + HOPE

“We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of **faith** and labor of **love** and steadfastness of **hope** in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

// 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

“So now **faith, hope, and love** abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

// 1 Corinthians 13:13

Chapters 1-3

- Greetings & Thanksgiving
- Paul describes his time in ministry at Thessalonica
- Paul describes his paternal love for the church he started there, and his pride in their faithfulness

Chapters 4-5

- Paul challenges them to pursue holiness and flee sexual immorality
- Paul seeks to answer doctrinal questions he has received from some within the church concerning the return of King Jesus

Textual Commentary:

- Paul is pastoring them and bringing up a new topic of discussion in the letter. [***Begin the Pauline Sandwich***]
- Paul gave them instructions on how to live (walk) in a way that pleases God.
- *Notice what Paul taught and follows up on when addressing such a young church.*

1 Thessalonians 4:1-2

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. ² For **you know what instructions we gave you** through the Lord Jesus.

Textual Commentary:

- Define “sanctification”
- Abstain from “sexual immorality” (v.3)
- Do not encourage “passion” that is disconnected from God’s design (v.4-5)
- Do not bring adultery into the congregation (v.6)
- Pursue holiness (v.7)
- This is God’s instruction (v.8)

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

³ For this is the will of God, your **sanctification**¹ that you abstain from **sexual immorality**²; ⁴ that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, ⁵ not in the **passion of lust** like the Gentiles who do not know God; ⁶ ³ 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.⁴ ⁷ For God has not called us for impurity, but in **holiness**.⁵ ⁸ Therefore whoever disregards this, **disregards not man but God**, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

“

*A progressive work of God and man that makes us more
and more free from sin and more like Christ in our
actual lives.*

WAYNE GRUDEM

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Design Re-purposed:

- **WD-40:** Developed to prevent rust on rocket parts (its name stands for "Water Displacement, 40th attempt"), it's now a multi-purpose lubricant and cleaner for squeaky hinges, stuck bolts, and more.
- **Play-Doh:** Invented as a wallpaper cleaner to remove soot from walls in coal-heated homes, it now repurposed as a children's modeling compound.
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Design Misuse:

- Super Glue mistaken for eye drops
- Tiki torch lamp oil mistaken for apple juice
- Testing a "stab-proof" jacket by stabbing oneself
- Using wood pallets and a forklift to change a high light bulb
- Driving a car over a rocket-propelled grenade to disassemble it

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Textual Commentary:

- **Positive reinforcement:** “Live quietly” or “don’t stir up controversy” to build self-importance (v.11).
- **Positive reinforcement:** “Live quietly” or “mind your own business” (NIV) is just part of church work (v.11).
- **Positive reinforcement:** To “work with your hands” means to earn your keep.
- **Why?** To model holy living for outsiders.

1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

⁹ Now concerning **brotherly love** *you have no need for anyone to write to you*, for you yourselves have been **taught by God to love one another**, ¹⁰ for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. **But** *we urge you, brothers,* to do this more and more, ¹¹ and to **aspire to live quietly**, and to **mind your own affairs**, and to **work with your hands**, as we instructed you, ¹² so that you may **walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.**

LIVE THE TEXT

1. **Flee** sexual immorality. (v.3)

- What do you allow yourself to look at?
- What books do you read? What games do you play
- What boundaries do you push in your relationships?
- Sexual immorality causes self-harm (**1 Cor. 6:18-20**)

2. **Control** your body in “holiness and honor.” (v.4-5)

- “Be fruitful and multiply” is God’s good command.
- The corrective to sexual immorality is not to consider sex “bad or “wrong” since it is God’s design.
- God’s way of using your desire and body lead to “holiness and honor.”
- **See: Genesis 1:28; all of Song of Songs; 1 Cor. 7:3-7**

LIVE THE TEXT

“Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person ***sins against his own body***.¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

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