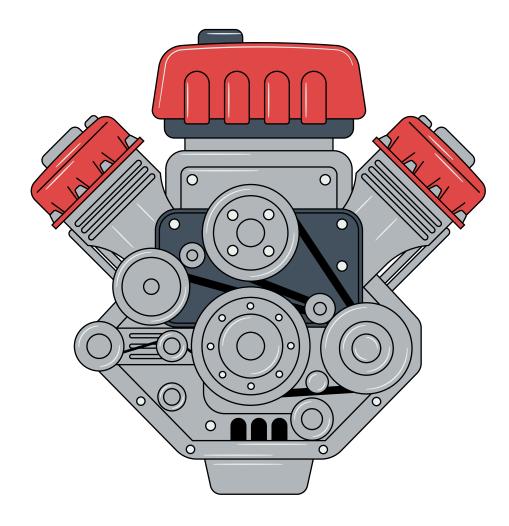
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# The Engine of a Healthy Church



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

- 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 <u>ask and urge</u> you in the Lord Jesus, that as you **received from us** how you ought to walk and to please God, <u>just as you are doing</u>, that you do so more and more. <sub>2</sub> For **you know what instructions we gave you** through the Lord Jesus.

- 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: that you abstain from **sexual immorality**; 4 that each one of you *know* <u>how</u> 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 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.



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.
- **Listerine:** Originally a surgical antiseptic and floor cleaner, it was rebranded as a mouthwash to combat bad breath in the 1920s

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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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- <u>Positive reinforcement:</u> "Live quietly" or "don't stir up controversy" to build self-importance (v.11).
- <u>Positive reinforcement:</u> "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.
- <u>Why?</u> 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.

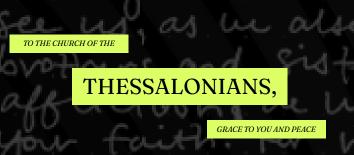
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  - What do you allow yourself to look at?
  - What books do you read? What games do you play
  - What boundaries do you push in your relationships?
  - Sexual immorality causes self-harm (1 Cor. 6:18-20)
- 2. *Control* your body in "holiness and honor."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

# INEXIE 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."





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# LIVETHEMEXT