

Introduction: Welcome, Teaching Practice.

>>> A. Typically A Single Sentence Life-point.

- Broader Teaching On Various Aspects Of Christian Living.
- 7 Rules For Christian Living.

1 Thessalonians 3:11. Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you,

Rule #1: Prioritize Christian Fellowship/Gatherings.

>>> A. First Point Of Prayer: Remove Obstacles For Meeting, Encouraging, Fellowshiping.

- “Direct Our Way To You...” Clear The Path...

- Satan Hindered. Life Hinders.

>>> B. Always Something That Stands In The Way. Needs To Be Done. Just Can't Wait.

Excuses Church Song Lyrics: Kingsman Quartet.

>>> C. Diminishing Spiritual Gatherings Is Detrimental To Spiritual Growth And Strength.

Hebrews 10:24-25. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Redwood Trees Illustration. Height = Great Stress. Limited Root Depth. Stay Upright And Strong? Interweaving With Other Trees, Drawing Strength And Nutrients.

Rule #1: Prioritize Christian Fellowship/Gatherings.

1 Thessalonians 3:12. and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you,

Rule #2: Continue Growing In Love For All People.

>>> A. “Lord Make You Increase...” Recognized Necessity Of God's Work.

>>> B. God's Power Needed Because Of Obstacles And Challenges:

- Natural Selfishness. Blindness To Our Own Faults. Difficult People. Difficult Circumstances.

Furniture Too Heavy To Move By Myself Ill. Need Strong Helper. Impossible Becomes Very Possible. True Of Loving Difficult People In Difficult Circumstances.

>>> C. Prays For A Growing Love.

- “Increase.” “Abound.” Never Ending Debt Of Love.

- Never: I've Arrived. I've Done Enough. I've Sacrificed Enough. Me Time."

>>> D. Prays For A Wide Love: "For One Another And For All."

- Supernatural Love Is Identified By Its Unexpected, Atypical Recipients.
- "All" = Persecutors. Slanderers. Injustice. Abusers. Mistreated. Etc.

Luke 6:27-28, 32-33. "But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you..... "If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.

>>> E. Qualities: Growing, Extravagant, Wide, Familial.)

1 Thessalonians 4:9-10. 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,

>>> E. Vs. 9. “Brotherly Love...” Christian Love For Fellow Christians Is Familial In Nature.

- Same Deep Love As For Our Biological Families.
- Same Concern For: Spiritual Walk, Health, Financial Circumstances, Etc.
- Reflected In Prayers, Calls, Support, Etc.

Rule #2: Continue Growing In Love For All People.

1 Thessalonians 3:13. so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Rule # 3: Keep Readiness For The Return Of Jesus At Forefront Of Mind.

>>> A. “Blameless In Holiness.” Meaning?

- Holy = Set Apart As Special And Dedicated To God. (Holy: Days, Objects, People.)
- Blameless = Without Fault, Unblemished.

>>> B. No Area Of Life To Be Ashamed Of When Jesus Returns. Your Whole Life Is Holy; Set Apart And Dedicated To Pleasing God.

- Holiness In Life Impacts: Moral Decisions, Work Ethic, Relational Activities And Attitude, Financial Choices, Etc.

>>> C. Emphasis = “At The Coming Of Our Lord Jesus With All Of His Saints.”

- Bible Repeatedly Emphasizes The Return Of Jesus (Second Coming, Appearing.)
- Timing And Surrounding Events Covered In Upcoming Texts.

>>> D. Primary Emphasis Here And Elsewhere = Readiness. Note Parables Of Jesus.

- Choices/Priorities Should Be Significantly Influenced By His Any Moment Return.

Mindset Of Bride In Wedding Dress Ill. Sony's BBQ? Touch Football? Painting?
Don't Mess Up The Dress. Ready For My Groom, Wedding Day.

Revelation 19:7-8. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; 8 it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

2 Peter 3:14. Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

Rule # 3: Keep Readiness For The Return Of Jesus At Forefront Of Mind.

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.

Rule #4. Tighten Your Grip On The Bible Instead Of Loosening It.

>>> A. Very Easy For These Christians To Believe And Behave According To: People. Culture. Feeling, Thinking.

>>> B. World's Ideas Regarding Moral Issues And Spiritual Beliefs Often Seem:

- Easier. Better. Right.
- Loosening Commitment To Bible A Little = Less Antagonism, Approval By Others.

>>> C. Paul Is Deeply Concerned For Christians Under Pressure!

- “Ask And Urge You.” Vitally Important.

>>> D. “As You Received From Us.” Referring To Unchanging Biblical Instruction.

- Verified In Verse 2. “What Instructions We Gave You From The Lord Jesus...”

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>>> E. “How You Ought To Walk (Live) And Please God.” Instead Of Loosening Grip We Need To Tighten It. Do So More And More.

- Not Guided By: Polls. Opinions. Judicial Decisions. Personal Thinking. Feeling.
- Primary Concern = How Christians Believe And Behave, More Than Shaping World.

>>> F. Common Mentality: Outdated, Conveniently Misinterpreted For 2,000 Years, Adjusted To Our Situation.

Rule #4. Tighten Your Grip On The Bible Instead Of Loosening It.

John 8:30-31. As he was saying these things, many believed in him. ³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,....”

John 14:23. Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

Rule #4. Tighten Your Grip On The Bible Instead Of Loosening It.

>>> G. Vs. 2. “For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

- Bible's Standards Are Not Optional Or Changeable Because There Ultimately From God And Not From Men.
- To Reject Any Part Of The Bible Is To Reject The God Of The Bible.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8. For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; 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 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. 7 For God has not called us for impurity, but in

holiness. 8 Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

Rule #5. Abstain From Any Activity That The Bible Describes A Sexual Sin.

>>> A. Verse 3. 1 Thessalonians 4:3. For This Is The Will Of God, Your Sanctification: That You Abstain From Sexual Immorality;

- God's Will Is More About Behavior, Character Than Specific Decisions.

>>> B. Some Sexual Activities The Bible Defines As Sinful.

- Physical Sexual Immorality: Fornication. Adultery. Homosexuality.
- Mental Sexual Immorality: Lust. Pornography.

1 Thessalonians 4:4-5. 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;

>>> C. Non-Christians Follow (Passion Of Lust) Their Sexual Desires But Christians Should Exercise Self-Control Over Their Sexual Desires.

Dog Eating Ill. Dog Is Driven By Unreasoning Drive For Food, Fear Of Loss. Appalling If Humans Ate Like That. Why? Reason. Control.

- Christians Not Exempt From Sinful Desires.
- Christians Not Obligated To Succumb To Sinful Desires. Follow The Spirit/Word.

1 Thessalonians 4:6-8. 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. 7 For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. 8 Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

>>> D. 6 Good Reasons Sexual Sin Is To Be Totally Rejected By Christians:

>>> E. Reason #1: You Always Hurt Or Wrong Others By Sexual Sin. (What's The Harm? Mentality. No One Gets Hurt!)

- Vs. 6. That No One Transgress And Wrong His Brother In This Matter,
- Obvious Wronging Of Another: Adultery, Rape, Harassment.
- Concealed Wronging Of Another: Pornography, Prostitution, Fornication.
- Wrong Or Hurt Done To The Community By Sexual Sin: Judgment (Like Sodom, David To His Family.)

>>> F. Reason #2: You Will End Up Hurting Yourself By Sexual Sin.

- Vs. 6. “Lord Is An Avenger In All These Things.”

Hebrews 13:4. Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

>>> G. Reason #3: We Have Been Repeatedly And Sincerely Warned About The Dangers Of Sexual Sin.

- Vs. 6c. As We Told You Beforehand And Solemnly Warned You.

People Starting To Smoke Today Versus 1940s And 50s Ill. Better Reasons To Avoid Today. Far Greater Information And Far More Warnings.

>>> H. Reason #4: Sexual Sin Is Contrary To The Christian's Special Privileges And Responsibilities From God.

- Vs. 7. For God Has Not Called Us For Impurity, But In Holiness.

Damage Of A Police Officer Lying On The Witness Stand Versus A Friend Of Defendant Illustration.

>>> I. Reason #5: Engaging In Sexual Sin Is Especially Wrong Because You Are Disobeying The Greatest Authority.

- Vs. 8. Therefore Whoever Disregards This, Disregards Not Man But God

Sgt's Commandments Versus General's Commandments Illustration.

>>> **J Reason #6: God Gave His Holy Spirit To You In Order To Be Holy.**

- Vs. 8c. "...Who Gives His Holy Spirit To You."

Dilapidated Home Ill. Leaky Roof, Ton Of Garbage, Filth, Rotting Food, Etc.

Understandable If: Illness, Poverty, Elderly.

- Inexcusable Way To Live If: Wealthy, Healthy, Young. Vast Resources Should Lead To A Different Kind Of Life. Out Of Filth And Rot.

Rule #5. Abstain From Any Activity That The Bible Describes A Sexual Sin.

Cancer And Doctor's Response To Patient Ill. Provoke Serious Response, "Kill You!"

Provide Hope "You Can Recover..."

>>> K. Covered Earlier 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10.

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12. 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.

Rule #6. Don't Be A Buttinski.

>>> A. Explain Word Definition. Someone Who Buts In To Other People's Business.

- Vs. 7. Live Quietly, And To Mind Your Own Affairs,

>>> B. Christians To Strive To Avoid Drama And Meddling.

Common Question To Callers Illustration. How Does This Involve You? Why Are You Stirring Things Up? It Is None Of Your Business!

- Really Common On Social Media Posts. Getting Involved In Other People's Business.

Rule #6. Don't Be A Buttinski.

Rule #7. Don't Be A Bum.

>>> A. Vs. 11b-12. work with your hands, as we instructed you, ¹² so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.

>>> B. Christians Should Strive To Be To Provide For Their Own Material Needs By Working.

- God's Will Is For You To “Get A Job!”

>>> C. Conjectured Reasons For Not Working:

- Waiting For The Second Coming Of Jesus.

- Current Culture Frowned Upon Manual Labor (Hands) As Degrading.
- Sometimes What God Commands, The World Condemns Or Vice Versa.

>>> D. Financial Dependence On Another, Whether The Government Or Another Person, Is A Last Resort For Special Cases In The Bible.

Rule #7. Don't Be A Bum.

>>> E. Christians Should Be Concerned With How Non-Christians View Their Lives.

- “Walk Properly Before Outsiders” Have A Good Reputation. Not A Troublemaker. Gossip. Lazy Bum.

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