

Sermon: Finally – Living to Please God

1 Thess 4:1-12

As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. ²For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

³It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; ⁴that each of you should learn to control your own body^(b) in a way that is holy and honorable, ⁵not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; ⁶and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister.^(b) The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. ⁷For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. ⁸Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.

⁹Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. ¹⁰And in fact, you do love all of God's family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more, ¹¹and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, ¹²so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

How Now Shall We Live?

Finally:

Be marked by continued Spiritual Maturity

Paul said: Phil 3:12-15 Not that I have already obtained, or am already made perfect: but I press on, if so be that I may lay hold on that for which also I was laid hold on by Christ Jesus. ¹³Brethren, I count not myself yet to have laid hold: but one thing *I do*, forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before. ¹⁴I press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, be thus minded...

Loving GOD SHOULD BE OUR EVER-GROWING LEGACY!

Finally – LIVE CLEAN

Phil 4:8 ⁸And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

Finally – WORK HARD!

FINALLY – Live a Life that People RESPECT

^{v 12}so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders

^{1 Peter 3:8-12} Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. ⁸ Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude. ⁹ Don't

repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will grant you his blessing. ¹⁰For the Scriptures say,

"If you want to enjoy life
and see many happy days,
keep your tongue from speaking evil
and your lips from telling lies.

¹¹Turn away from evil and do good.
Search for peace, and work to maintain it.

¹²The eyes of the LORD watch over those who do right,
and his ears are open to their prayers.

But the LORD turns his face
against those who do evil