

# 1ST THESSALONIANS 4

*1 Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God; 2 for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus. - 1st Thessalonians 4:1-2*

In the fourth chapter of Paul's letter to the Thessalonian believers, a new theme emerges. The preceding chapters are predominantly personal, demonstrating Paul's admiration for the Thessalonians and his earnest longing to reunite with them. However, in chapters 4 and 5, Paul imparts guidance on individual conduct and moral purity. The initial segment of chapter 4 provides counsel on leading a sanctified life. Paul encourages the Thessalonians to shun sexual immorality through self-discipline, emphasizing that believers are called by God to live a pure life and warning of His judgment upon those who engage in sexual immorality (1 Thessalonians 4:1-9).

Paul then urges his audience to show love towards one another, lead a peaceful life, focus on their own affairs, and work diligently to meet their needs rather than relying on others for support. Through their hard work, the Thessalonians would uphold a positive reputation (testimony). This is not only crucial as an expression of obedience to God but also serves as a compelling demonstration, to those who do not believe, of the transformative power of Christ in a person's life. As a result, it paves the way for these individuals to be receptive to and embrace the gospel themselves.

As Pastor Steve brought up, putting off the old man (eph 4:21-24)... A common roman punishment for murder was for the convicted to carry the corpse of the victim on his back permanently. The rotting and decaying flesh would soon spread its decay to the convict and eventually kill him by disease. How many of us after coming to Christ still carry around our old dead man?

***How is your testimony at work, or in the secular community, vital to the advancement of the kingdom?***

## Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to live a 'holy' life? What are some practical ways to practice it?
2. Is there a difference between holiness, sanctification, and righteousness?
3. How can following God's commandments make us more effective as a witness?
4. Why is discipline needed for holiness?
5. What does it mean to live a 'quite life'? How does it help your testimony?