



1 Thessalonians 4:1-8—Model Behavior—part 1
From Sermon 1.23.22

Read *1 Thessalonians 4:1-8*

Review from Sunday's sermon: This little, yet fully inspired letter, is almost complete to this baby church. Although one major doctrine remains to be clarified (Christ's Return), God the Holy Spirit has Paul address still one more prerequisite: personal moral behavior. All things inside the Thessalonian church are healthy. They (we) now need to examine conduct outside the church, Monday thru Saturday.

1. Define Sanctification. The root word means to set apart/to separate from the world and qualify for godly purposes. It is the process of being made holy.
2. Read each passage. Review & Discuss the Stages or Phases of Sanctification:
 - *Hebrews 10:10* = Past tense. Something already Done. God did all the work.
 - *Hebrews 10:14* = Presence tense. Something Ongoing. Here, we cooperate in the work.
 - *1 Corinthians 15:51-54* = Future tense. Something that will be done. God does all the work.
See also *1 John 3:1-3*
3. What has been the tragic move within the Church regarding Paul and his inspired writing in the Bible? To view and label Paul's contribution as manmade and not from God. The liberals, especially, cannot deny that Paul's writings contain clear prohibitions on certain lifestyles and roles. So, the only way around those is to dismiss Paul and his Apostleship. What did our key passage state, however? From God. See also *Galatians 1:11-12* & *2 Peter 3:15-16*
- 3a. Besides attacking Paul: To make allowances and to now ordain and celebrate unbiblical sexual conduct, what has the liberal church had to do? Various answers. Redefine. Reinterpret. Reject. Redefine God and His nature. Redefine holiness. Reinterpret much of Scripture as human, rather than divine in origin. Reject Paul as archaic, naïve, misogynistic, and homophobic. Dismiss any notion of God's wrath. Redefine love and marriage. Make all things (God, Scripture, the Church) relative = changes with times and culture.
4. What is the biblical, prescribed definition of the only sexual relationship allowed by God? The consenting sexual expression and practice between a man and woman, legally married, to each other, that does not violate other restrictions clearly given in Scripture.
[Note: Thessalonica was at the heart of the Greco-Roman culture. Both societies were nearing their end, following their paganism, abandonment of morality, and deviant behavior. These new believers, then, had no Judeo values/commandments compared to the church in Jerusalem or Antioch. = new, radical teaching]
5. Discuss Sunday's powerful truth conclusion: The body should not control the believer. The believer should control the body. Does this just apply to sexual desire(s)? No. just about anything, left unchecked, can control the believer = our god. I.E.: the Eyes, mouth/tongue, mind (thinking/memories), heart (emotions/desires), stomach...
See also *Matthew 6:22-23*, *James 3:2-8*, *Philippians 3:18-19*, & *1 John 2:16-17*