



1 Thessalonians 4:9-12  
Model Behavior—part 3  
From Sermon 2.6.22

Read *1 Thessalonians 4:9-12*

Review from Sunday's sermon: Under the Christian discipline of moral behavior, we considered the topic of sexual morality. Now, we see the Holy Spirit has Paul move on to 3 or 4 other topics that could not be more relevant in our day or more counter-cultural. Christians and the church should indeed stand out in the world. But, never because we were the best at worldly tactics and carnal methods. If we are noticed, it should be for righteousness, humility, ethics, forgiveness, and other fruits of the Spirit.

1. Some religions and wayward churches make the Christian faith purely about behavior = God just wants you to be good, kind, tolerant, charitable. So, they have all kinds of rules and restrictions. Others see Christianity as just dealing with open, enlightened minds, new age spirituality and connection, and unity with the world. So, they have little to no restrictions or absolutes. Complete the following flow chart from Sunday. Discuss each component of the model church.

Holy Scripture [Absolute] → Biblical Leaders → Sound Doctrine →  
→ Nourished/Equipped Members → Godly Behavior

2. Discuss the comment: "We live in a loud, bullhorn culture." Various thoughts. Endless marches and protest, looting, destroy and remove, take-overs, cancel-culture, banning books and censoring the press.

3. Read the following Scriptures. Pick out key words, terms, phrases that are *opposite* of a quiet life and the minding one's own business:

- *Romans 1:28-32*
- *Romans 13:12-14*
- *1 Corinthians 3:3*
- *2 Corinthians 12:20-21*
- *Galatians 5:19-21*
- *1 Timothy 6:3-5*
- *Titus 3:9-11*

3a. Now, consider Paul's words in *2 Corinthians 10:1-5*. Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Is social media a good thing or a bad thing? How has social media given rise to a platform for endless debate, anonymous busy bodying, encouraged gossip, & inevitable division? Various answers.

5. The Bible has much to say about work, labor, and a godly work ethic. Discuss the connection of idleness to the danger of meddling, busybody, and gossip. See also *1 Timothy 5:13*

6. Who was the only group/institution that Jesus debated, criticized, accused, & judged, in His earthly ministry? The false teachers. He was not concerned with debating the world. (Rome, Herod, the soldiers, tax collectors, the system(s)... \*Pilate marveled at Jesus' response. Herod became frustrated at His lack of response.)