

**Series:** The Model Church

**Title:** The Model Walk or Life

**Text:** (1 Thes 4:1-12)

The Aim of this section is the exhortation of Paul to live a life of Moral purity & to fight against immorality.

(Theme vs 7) *For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.*

Have you ever said: *“If only I could take back what I had done?”*

**A. A Model Walk Pleases God (Part One): A life of purity, 4:1-8**

**I. The Exhortation for Purity: (Vs 1-2)**

*1 Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.*

*2 For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus.*

We are to desire to please God, Day by Day.

God is interested in every step we take. (Ps 139:1-2)

If we are to be in fellowship with God, we are to walk pleasing to him.

**Paul’s Exhortation was in tenderness by calling them “Brethren” (Vs 1)**

*‘Beseech’* - Paul urgently plead with them.

Paul urged them about the great necessity to please God by walking in Obedience.

Paul Reasoned that Obedience brought blessing, where Rebellion brought a Curse.

**Paul’s Exhortation was of Personal Responsibility.**

**Paul used the word ‘Ought’ because they were taught sound doctrine about this. (Vs 1)**

It was an imperative, a Necessity.

These believers were responsible & accountable to please God b/c they had been taught to do so.

**Paul’s Exhortation was based upon the ‘the Lord Jesus’.**

The Exhortation is of the highest authority.

This is what the Lord Himself had taught them.

**Paul’s Exhortation involved the commandment of the Lord Jesus. (Vs 1) “by the Lord Jesus”**

It was the Lord Jesus who has commanded us so to walk.

***Do not let down your guard, not even for a moment.***

***We must keep a vigilant watch over our lives.***

***Do not allow yourself to be deceived.***

***You and I are not Above Immoral Behavior.***

***What safe guards do you have in place to keep you from Immorality?***

Do you go to lunch alone with another colleague?  
Do you travel with alone with another colleague?  
Do you stay in the same hotel?  
Do you consume alcohol when you are alone with another colleague?

***What circumstances would cause these safeguards to fail?***

***Has anything come up in the last week that could compromise your testimony?***

***If so, how could the situation been handled differently.***

***In Pleasing God,  
What areas do you have the most trouble?  
How do you plan to get help in that areas?***

(1 Jn 1:9) We confess, repent, forsake, but we must replace it with (Gal 5:16) It is our only hope.

*The Exhortation for Purity...*

**II. The Commandment for Purity: (Vs 3-5)** God's will is your Sanctification.

***3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:***

There is no plainer way to state this.  
There is no Higher calling than the Will of God.  
When the Will of God is known, then the Will God must be Done!

Sanctification means Set Apart and Separated.  
Set apart, separated unto God to perform His will.  
God's will is for us to be morally pure.  
To live pure lives before God.

**Sanctification means to abstain from Fornication:**  
***(Vs 3) For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:***

All types of Immoral sexual acts.

All sexual acts outside of God's definition of marriage  
All forms of Sexual deviation.  
The Believer's body belongs to Christ.  
We are to honor Christ with our bodies.  
We are to use our sexual drive and our bodies as God instructed.

**Sanctification means to know how to control our body: (Vs 4)**  
***4 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;***

Vessel~Our own body or our spouse.  
A person can neglect, ignore, abuse their own body,

or..

A person can neglect, ignore, or abuse their spouse.  
We are one flesh with our spouse.

(1 Cor 7:4-5)

Neglecting, ignoring, or abusing one's spouse can bring about temptation & can contribute significantly to the spouse becoming unfaithful or impure.

(Rom 6:19)

This area of battle in the believer's life is won or Lost in the Believer's mind.

When we let down our guard, our minds get filled with the garbage of illicit sex & violence that the world pumps into our lives through videos, films, pornographic materials, off color humor, and a host of other things.

(1 Thes 4:3) *For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:*

**Sanctification means to resisting the passion of Lust: (Vs 5)**

***Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:***

*Concupiscence~ The Enslaving power of Lust.*

Someone can be so captured by the grip of lust that it would seem almost impossible to break the bonds.

**The Passion of Lust is not the ways of God.**

It is a lifestyle of continual practice of those who do not know God.

It does not mean that they do not know it is wrong, but that they have rejected God & His commandments.

They have chosen to live in the passion of their lusts. Believers are commanded to please God, & keep the commandments of the Lord Jesus.

(Rom 1:18-32) The Indictment against sin.

(James 1:14-15) Lust leads to death

What is popular in our culture is not necessarily what's best for the Believer.

*Illus: The farmer over run with mice. Too many to trap. He used Flavored Poison.*

Just because it is popular, does not mean it is good for the believer.

In fact it can be deadly, just like sin.

***To what degree does God expect you to be sanctified/ Morally Pure?***

***Is it possible for us to be Morally Pure in an evil and Corrupt Society?***

***How can we overcome the power of Lust? (Gal 5:16)***

*The Exhortation for Purity...*

*The Commandment for Purity...*

**III. The Reason for Purity: (Vs 6-8)**

4 Reasons to be pure:

**Immorality defrauds & cheats a brother: (Vs 6a)**

***6 That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter:***

Fornication steals from a person.

It steals one of the persons in a marriage.

It steals the heart, affection, innocence, trust, &

Trustworthiness.

The Tragedy is that these cannot fully be recovered.

The pain & hurt always lingers to some degree.

(Rom 12:9-10) without hypocrisy

**Immorality will be Avenged by God: (Vs 6b)**

**because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.**

No Matter how much society accepts it.

God created sex for Marriage.

God will judge.

(Rom 1:18)

Even David, “*a man after God’s own heart*” committed this sin.

**Immorality is Not the Call of God: (vs 7)**

***7 For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.***

Purity, Sanctification: these are the call of God on our lives.

God calls us to Holiness.

God would never call us to sin & uncleanness (2 Cor 7:1)

**Immorality is a Sin against God: (Vs 8)**

***8 He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.***

When we reject this commandment, we are actually rejecting God. (2 Pet 2:14-15)

All sin is against God:

(Ps 51:4) *against thee & thee only have I sinned*

Our God, The Creator, Sustainer, Savior, Sovereign, Lover of our soul, with all His divine majesty, dwells within us. (1 Cor 3:16-17)

We must not dirty our bodies with a harlot, or neighbor.

The Majesty of God must not be defiled.

(1 Cor 6:16-20)

***Why does God have the right to give such severe warnings to His children?***

***What does this tell you about God’s Character?***

***What things have to happen for a Marriage to be saved, after Fornication has happened?***

***What is God’s will for Marriages that have been broken?***

***Do you ever experience feelings of Moral weakness?***

***What do you do to overcome them?***

***Why do we believe that our own sin is our own personal business & does not affect anyone else?***

#### **4 Practical ways to Please God:**

##### **A. Grow in Love More and More: (Vs 9-10)**

***9 But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.***

***10 And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more;***

*Love:* Not Agape but Philadelphia-

*Brotherly love:* Special love that exists in a family between Brothers & Sister.

A Love that holds others deeply in the heart.

Love that binds individuals into an unbreakable union

They had been taught “of God to love one another.”

They were to be complimented in that they did so

“*toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia.*”

Macedonia was the region whence was Thessalonica.

Included in that region were the churches at Philippi, Berea, and perhaps others.

Thessalonian church had manifested a love for them Nevertheless, Paul urged them to increase in the same more and more.

Paul addresses matters of delicate concern. He had already given them praise & much encouragement to this point.

It seems what he is about to address was already a problem.

Paul gets down to the nitty-gritty of day-to-day life.

##### **(Vs 11-12)**

Implied is that, for whatever reason, some in the church did not or were not so inclined.

(2 Thess, Paul seems to address the same problem even more forcibly. See II Thessalonians 3:10-12.)

##### **B. Study To Be Quiet: (Vs 11a)**

***11 And that ye study to be quiet,***

(2 Tim 2:15) Study

(1 Pet 3:15) Ready - Quiet=at peace

##### **C. Do Your Own Business: (Vs 11b) *and to do your own business,***

***To know your ministry to God as an individual:***

Daily Quiet Time, Ministering to God in Praise.

***To know your ministry to your family:***

Spouse, Children, Grandchildren. Prayer, Fellowship, teaching.

***To know your ministry in God's Kingdom work in the Body of Christ, the Local church.***

***Know your Spiritual Gifts:*** (1 Cor 12:7-11, 28)

***What is your ministry here?***

***What part do you play in the Great Commission?***

(Matt 28:19-20)

(2 Tim 2:2)

***D. Work With Your Own Hands: (Vs 11c) and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;***

**God Introduced Work:** Gen 1:26-28; 2:15-20

- Populate the earth
- Subdue the earth
- Have dominion over the animal kingdom
- Cultivate the Garden to prepare fruits, vegetables, and herbs for eating.

**Sin Cursed our World and our Work:** Gen 3:1-6

- Work was not the curse – Gen 2:16-17
- God had already assigned a job to Adam.
- Gen 3:16-19 it would now take more effort.

**We must understand work.** Col 3:1,17 This command is not limited to our ministry.

- We must see our vocation as part of our Christian service.
- We can find fulfillment in our vocation as long as it is God's will for us. Col 3:23-24

**So Why Work?**

**To serve the Lord:**

(1Pet 1:1) *Scattered* like sown grain

You are not lost like a set of car keys, your placed here in this part of God's vineyard on purpose.

**Be a Witness:** (Col 3:25)

*Illus:* How will your complaining or Witnessing during work hours affect your testimony?

**Support our families:** (2 Thes 3:10-12)

Difference between CAN Not and WILL Not

**Support the Lord's work:** (2 Cor 8:7-8; 1 Cor 16:2)

**Share with others:**

(Eph 4:28; 1 Jn 3:17-18; James 2:15-16)

**Support the Government:** We may cringe but its Bible

Christ affirmed it: Lk 20:25

Paul affirmed it: Rom 13:1-7

Peter affirmed our obedience as a witness

1 Pet 3:13-15

The Reason for this admonition from Paul was because OTHERS, Lost people are watching!

***12 That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.***

Honestly - 'honorably' or 'decently.'

At stake was their testimony.

Even the unsaved world has a dim view of laziness or freeloading.

***(Vs 12b) and that ye may have lack of nothing.***

God has ordained for His people to work to provide for themselves and their families.

***What is our Testimony like of those around us?***