

Living to Please God - 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Topics

Ambition, Faithfulness, Holiness, Immorality, Jobs, Marriage, Purity, Sex

Open It Questions

1. How much do you think people are influenced by what they watch on television?

2. How is sex viewed by many of the people you know and work with?

Explore It Questions

3. What instruction had Paul given to the Thessalonians when he was with them? (4:1)

4. What did Paul urge his audience to do? (4:1)

5. By what authority did Paul give his instructions? (4:2)

6. What are God's desires for our sexuality? (4:3-8)

7. How is the Christian's sexual conduct to be different from that of the non-Christian? (4:4-5)

8. How did Paul characterize the heathen? (4:4-5)

9. When people ignore or reject God's instructions on sexual behavior, what are they rejecting? (4:8)

10. What command of God were the Thessalonians known for obeying? (4:9-10)

11. What ambition were the Thessalonians to pursue? (4:11-12)

12. What is the result of living a quiet, respected, and responsible life? (4:11-12)

Get It Questions

13. How often do we need to be reminded about God's instructions for our lives?

14. In what way can ambition for fame, success, or wealth hurt a believer?

15. How does God want us to use our bodies?

16. How would you respond to someone who says it is possible to be a good Christian while also being sexually immoral?

17. How do the media influence our attitudes about sex?

18. How can we wrong a person through our sexual behavior?

19. What is a holy life?

20. What would motivate you to live a life that is pure and holy?

21. What influence on people and society can a hardworking, quiet person have?

Apply It Questions

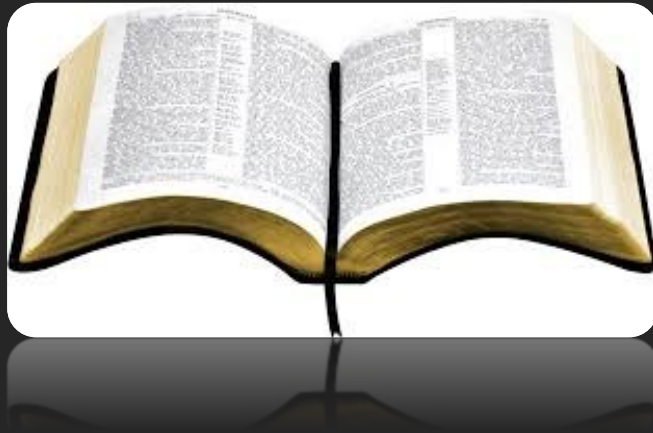
22. In the future, how could you help a Christian caught in sexual sin?

23. What can you do to maintain your purity?

24. When can you spend some time examining your ambitions in light of God's priorities for you?

Adult Questions for LESSONMaker.

WELCOME TO BIBLE STUDY



Facilitators

Rev. Rodney Kemp

Rev. Valerie Crump

Rev. Jackie Albert

Dean Donna Wilson

Alicia Martin, Minister-in-Training

NEW HOPE

MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF SOUTHFIELD
23455 WEST NINE MILE ROAD, SOUTHFIELD, MI 48033
TELEPHONE: 248.353.0675





PRAYER



TOPICS



- ☐ Ambition
- ☐ Faithfulness
- ☐ Holiness
- ☐ Immorality
- ☐ Jobs
- ☐ Marriage
- ☐ Purity
- ☐ Sex

TOPICS



**OPEN IT
QUESTIONS**



1. How much do you think people are influenced by what they watch on television?

**OPEN IT
QUESTIONS**



2. How is sex viewed by many of the people you know and work with?

**OPEN IT
QUESTIONS**



INTRODUCTION



The first three chapters of this letter focus on looking back at Paul's visit with the Thessalonians and defending his ministry with them against his critics. The final two chapters (4 and 5) look ahead to the future of the church—giving advice for certain areas of Christian conduct that he felt needed to be addressed.

I N T R O D U C T I O N



The end of chapter 3 is a prayer that Christ would make these believers strong, blameless, and holy before God (3:13). That is a process of walking in faith and learning to live to please God. Effective faith should show itself in every area of a believer's life.

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**SCRIPTURE
(NLT)**



¹Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we urge you in the name of the Lord Jesus to live in a way that pleases God, as we have taught you. You live this way already, and we encourage you to do so even more. ²For you remember what we taught you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

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³God's will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin. ⁴Then each of you will control his own body and live in holiness and honor— ⁵not in lustful passion like the pagans who do not know God and his ways. ⁶Never harm or cheat a fellow believer in this matter by violating his wife, for the Lord avenges all such sins, as we have solemnly warned you before.

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⁷God has called us to live holy lives, not impure lives. ⁸Therefore, anyone who refuses to live by these rules is not disobeying human teaching but is rejecting God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

⁹But we don't need to write to you about the importance of loving each other, for God himself has taught you to love one another. ¹⁰Indeed, you already show your love for all the believers throughout Macedonia. Even so, dear brothers and sisters, we urge you to love them even more.

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¹¹ Make it your goal to live a quiet life, minding your own business and working with your hands, just as we instructed you before. ¹² Then people who are not believers will respect the way you live, and you will not need to depend on others.

SCRIPTURE



**EXPLORE IT
QUESTIONS**



3. **What instruction had Paul given to the Thessalonians when he was with them?**
([4:1](#))



¹Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we urge you in the name of the Lord Jesus to live in a way that pleases God, as we have taught you. You live this way already, and we encourage you to do so even more.

**EXPLORE IT
QUESTIONS**



4. What did Paul urge his audience to do? ([4:1](#))



¹Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we urge you in the name of the Lord Jesus to live in a way that pleases God, as we have taught you. You live this way already, and we encourage you to do so even more.

**EXPLORE IT
QUESTIONS**



5. By what authority did Paul give his instructions?
([4:2](#))



² For you remember what we taught you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

**EXPLORE IT
QUESTIONS**



**6. What are God's desires
for our sexuality? (4:3-8)**

*³ God's will is for you to be holy, so
stay away from all sexual sin.*

*⁴ Then each of you will control his
own body and live in holiness and
honor—*

*⁵ not in lustful passion like the
pagans who do not know God and
his ways. (4:3-5)*



**EXPLORE IT
QUESTIONS**



6. What are God's desires for our sexuality? ([4:3-8](#))

⁶ Never harm or cheat a fellow believer in this matter by violating his wife, for the Lord avenges all such sins, as we have solemnly warned you before.

⁷ God has called us to live holy lives, not impure lives.

⁸ Therefore, anyone who refuses to live by these rules is not disobeying human teaching but is rejecting God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you. (4:6-8)

**EXPLORE IT
QUESTIONS**



7. **How is the Christian's sexual conduct to be different from that of the non-Christian?**
([4:4-5](#))

⁴ Then each of you will control his own body and live in holiness and honor—

⁵ not in lustful passion like the pagans who do not know God and his ways.



**EXPLORE IT
QUESTIONS**



8. How did Paul characterize the heathen? ([4:4-5](#))

⁴ Then each of you will control his own body and live in holiness and honor—

⁵ not in lustful passion like the pagans who do not know God and his ways.



**EXPLORE IT
QUESTIONS**



9. When people ignore or reject God's instructions on sexual behavior, what are they rejecting? ([4:8](#))



⁸ Therefore, anyone who refuses to live by these rules is not disobeying human teaching but is rejecting God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

**EXPLORE IT
QUESTIONS**



**10. What command of God
were the Thessalonians
known for obeying?
([4:9-10](#))**

⁹ But we don't need to write to you about the importance of loving each other, for God himself has taught you to love one another.

¹⁰ Indeed, you already show your love for all the believers throughout Macedonia. Even so, dear brothers and sisters, we urge you to love them even more.



**EXPLORE IT
QUESTIONS**



**11. What ambition were the
Thessalonians to pursue?
([4:11-12](#))**

*¹¹ Make it your goal to live a quiet
life, minding your own business
and working with your hands, just
as we instructed you before.*

*¹² Then people who are not
believers will respect the way you
live, and you will not need to
depend on others.*



**EXPLORE IT
QUESTIONS**



12. What is the result of living a quiet, respected, and responsible life? ([4:11-12](#))

¹¹ Make it your goal to live a quiet life, minding your own business and working with your hands, just as we instructed you before.

¹² Then people who are not believers will respect the way you live, and you will not need to depend on others.



**EXPLORE IT
QUESTIONS**



**GET IT
QUESTIONS**



13. How often do we need to be reminded about God's instructions for our lives?



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**GET IT
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**GET IT
QUESTIONS**



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21. What influence on people and society can a hardworking, quiet person have?

**GET IT
QUESTIONS**



**APPLY IT
QUESTIONS**



22. In the future, how could you help a Christian caught in sexual sin?



23. What can you do to maintain your purity?

**APPLY IT
QUESTIONS**



24. When can you spend some time examining your ambitions in light of God's priorities for you?

**APPLY IT
QUESTIONS**



“Be Ye Holy!”

¹⁵ But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

*¹⁶ Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.
(1 Peter 1:15-16 KJV)*



APPLY IT



PRAYER

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church
Southfield, Michigan

NEXT WEEK'S BIBLE STUDY LESSON

“The Coming of the Lord”

1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

