

Anticipation: 1 Thessalonians

Pleasing God: 4:1-12

The excellent Christian life is one that strives to please God...

Finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. (1 Thes. 4:1-2)

- **A holy life of sexual purity** – “It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality....” (v. 3)
 - **Sexual immorality is a self-control issue** – “...that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God...” (vv. 4-5)
 - **Sexual immorality hurts others** – “...and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him.” (v. 6a)
 - **Sexual immorality will cost you** – “The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you.” (v. 6b)
 - **Sexual immorality is a rejection of God** – “For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit.” (vv. 6b-8)

Safeguarding purity:

- **Starve the sources** – “Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned? Can a man walk on hot coals without his feet being scorched?” (Prov. 6:27-28)
- **Guard the eyes** – “I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl.” (Job 31:1)
- **Flee the flirting** – “With persuasive words she led him astray; she seduced him with her smooth talk.” (Prov. 7:21)

- **A growing life of Christian love** – “Now about brotherly love we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. And in fact, you do love all the brothers throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers, to do so more and more (vv. 9-10)
- **An attractive life of personal responsibility** – “Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.” (vv. 11-12)

What happens when I fail to please God?

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. (Rom. 5:1-2)