

# **1 Thessalonians 4:1-8**

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1. What instructions had Paul given to the Thessalonians when he was with them and what did he encourage the Thessalonians to do?

## 1 Thess. 4:1

1 Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us *instruction* as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more.

**1. What instructions had Paul given to the Thessalonians when he was with them and what did he encourage the Thessalonians to do?**

**1. A walk that pleases God.**

**a. A walk demonstrates their actions and their behavior.**

**b. Please God while examining their good motives.**

**1. What instructions had Paul given to the Thessalonians when he was with them and what did he encourage the Thessalonians to do?**

**2. That they excel still more.**

**a. The Thessalonians were living a righteous life.**

**b. They were not to be content with their own behavior and thoughts, but they should strive to “excel still more”.**

1. What instructions had Paul given to the Thessalonians when he was with them and what did he encourage the Thessalonians to do?

## **Spiritual Growth consists of:**

**A. Gaining more information from God's Word.**

**B. Participating in spiritual activities.**

1. Praying

2. Serving

3. Teaching others the Gospel

1. What instructions had Paul given to the Thessalonians when he was with them and what did he encourage the Thessalonians to do?

## 2 John 2:12-14

12 I am writing to you, **little children**, because **your sins have been forgiven** you for His name's sake.

13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, **young men**, because **you have overcome the evil one**. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father.

14 I have written to you, **fathers**, because **you know Him who has been from the beginning**. I have written to you, **young men**, because **you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one**.

2. By whose authority did Paul give his instructions?

1 **Thess. 4:2**

2 For you know what

commandments we gave you by

*the authority of the Lord Jesus.*

**Jesus Christ**

## 2. By whose authority did Paul give his instructions?

The commandments Paul and his companions shared with the Thessalonians:

a. Divine principles

b. Spiritual truths

c. The Gospel (Acts 17:1-4, 1Thess. 1:5-6, 1Thess. 2:7-8, 14)

d. Their spiritual walk (Rom. 12:9-21, Gal. 5:16—26)

**2. By whose authority did Paul give his instructions?**

**The fundamentals of Christian living:**

**A. Strive to please God**

**B. Glorify God in everything**

# Pleasing God and Glorifying Him in everything

1. Confess your sins regularly (Ps. 32:5; Isa. 1:18–19; Matt. 6:12; 1 John 1:9);
2. Pray continually and trust Him (Ps. 27:8; Phil. 4:6; 1 Thess. 5:17; 1 Tim. 2:8; Heb. 4:16; 10:22; James 1:6);
3. Pursue humility (Matt. 20:26–28; Eph. 4:1–2; Phil. 2:3–4; Col. 3:12; James 4:6);
4. Be content with God's will (cf. Ps. 37:16; 1 Tim. 6:6, 8; Heb. 13:5);
5. Know God's will as it is revealed in His Word (Ps. 119:105; Prov. 6:23; 2 Tim. 3:16–17; 2 Peter 1:19);
6. Be willing to suffer for His name (Matt. 5:10–12; John 15:20; Acts 5:41; 2 Tim. 3:12);

# **Pleasing God and Glorifying Him in everything**

7. Teach the lost (Matt. 4:19; 28:19–20; Mark 16:15; 2 Cor. 5:20; 2 Tim. 4:5);
8. Celebrate the Lord's Supper (Luke 22:19; 1 Cor. 11:23–28);
9. Care for one another (Acts 2:44–46; Gal. 6:2; Phil. 2:3–4; 1 Thess. 5:11, 14; Heb. 13:1–3; James 1:27);
10. Honor God in your marriages and families (Eph. 5:22–6:4; Col. 3:18–21; 1 Tim. 5:3–16; Titus 2:1–8; Heb. 13:4);
11. Be diligent and fruitful in all avenues of service (Matt. 3:8; Eph. 2:10; Col. 1:10; 2 Tim. 3:16–17; Titus 3:8, 14; Heb. 10:24; Heb. 13:21).

### 3. What are God's desires for our sexuality?

1 Thess. 4:3

3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification; *that is*, that you abstain from sexual immorality;

Abstain from sexual immorality

### **3. What are God's desires for our sexuality?**

#### **Romans 13:14**

**14** But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

#### **1 Corinthians 6:18**

**18** Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.

### **3. What are God's desires for our sexuality?**

#### **Ephesians 5:5**

**5** For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

#### **Colossians 3:5**

**5** Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

### **3. What are God's desires for our sexuality?**

#### **Hebrews 13:4**

**4** Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

#### **1 Timothy 4:12**

**12** Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

### **3. What are God's desires for our sexuality?**

#### **Titus 2:12**

**12** Training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,

## 4. How does Paul characterize the heathen?

1 Thess. 4:4-5

4 that each of you know how to possess his own vessel **in sanctification** and **honor**,

5 not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God;

The heathen:

A. Pursue lustful passion.

B. Do not know God.

## 5. What does sanctification mean?

**Sanctification** is a **process of** **cleansing from sin** and **growing in** **purity**, especially in the **mind**, **heart**, and **actions**.

It **involves separation and** **purification** for **God's purposes**.

# **5. What does sanctification mean?**

## **John 17:17-19**

**17** “Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

**18** “As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

**19** “For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.

6. How could someone transgress and defraud a brother?

## 1 Thess. 4:6

6 *and* that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is *the* avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned *you.*

**6. How could someone transgress and defraud a brother?**

**Vs 4** - Possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,

**Vs 5** - Do not engage in lustful passion

**Vs 6** - They should never sexually take advantage of other believers.

7. How might understanding our identity as children of God influence our interactions with both Christians and non-Christians?

## 1 Thess. 4:7-8

7 For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification.

8 So, he who rejects *this* is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.

**7. How might understanding our identity as children of God influence our interactions with both Christians and non-Christians?**

**A. God has called us to purity.**

1. Our lives should be transformed.
2. Our minds should be changed.
3. Our hearts should be transformed.

**B. All men and women need God's grace.**

The Christian should display a Christ-like attitude while serving both Christians and non-Christians.