

Instructions in Godly Living

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Introduction

I Instructions On Pleasing God

- A. We instructed you how to live: - Eph 4:1; 5:1-2, 8, 15-16
 - 1. In order to **please** God - 2 Cor 5:9-10; Eph 5:8-10
 - 2. As in fact you are living
- B. We ask/**urge** you to do this more and more - Rom 12:11
 - 1. You know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus - 2 Tim 3:16-17

II Instructions On Sexual Purity

- A. It is God's will that you should be **sanctified**: - Rom 12:2
 - 1. You should **avoid** sexual immorality - 1 Cor 6:13-20
 - 2. You should learn to control your own body: - Prov 25:28
 - a. In a way that is **holy** - Heb 12:14
 - b. In a way that is **honorable** - Rom 13:14
- B. It is not God's will for you to:
 - 1. Live in passionate **lusts** like the heathen
 - 2. Wrong your brother or take **advantage** of him
- C. The Lord will **punish** men for all such sins: - Eph 5:3-7
 - 1. For God didn't call us to be **impure** but holy - 1 Pt 1:13-16
 - 2. He who **rejects** this instruction:
 - a. Does not reject man - Jn 3:19-20
 - b. But rejects God who gives you his Holy Spirit

III Instructions On Brotherly Love

- A. We do not need to write you about **brotherly love**
- B. You have been **taught** by God to love one another - 1 Thess 1:3; 1 Jn 4:19; John 13:34-35; Rom 5:5
- C. We **urge** you love more and more - Phil 1:9-11

IV Instructions On Work

- A. Make it your ambition to lead a **quiet** life
- B. Mind your own **business** and work:
 - 1. So that you may win the **respect** of outsiders - Col 4:5
 - 2. So that you will not be **dependent** - 2 Thess 3:6-11

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

1. Share 3 practical things that you wish you knew earlier in life.
2. Paul had previously instructed them how to live in such a way as to please God. If you were to mentor a newer believer, what "Top 10 Ways of Pleasing God" would you teach? How does your life reflect those "Top 10" attitudes/activities?
3. What, in your opinion, are the consequences of sexual impurity? How would you counsel a believer who is sexually involved with someone they are not legally married to? What are some practical ways that believers can safeguard their minds and bodies against sexual temptation and sins?
4. Agape love for others is one of the premier signs of a truly born again believer. How do you generally express/experience love? If Paul were to exhort you to love more and more, what would that practically mean for you?
5. Describe your parents' work ethic. Is yours similar/different? What is the work ethic for the average person in this community? Why does Paul place such an emphasis on the work ethic of these new believers? How does your attitude/performance at work promote/damage the gospel among those around you?
6. Take some time to evaluate your life in the above-mentioned areas. What do you need to repent of or change? Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a passion to please the Lord with your body, your relationships and your work!

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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