



1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

Lesson 5

The Christian life has been compared to a walk. It is never static. God has not called us to think we have arrived and attained the holiness that He calls us to seek. The moral climate in the Roman Empire was not healthy. Immorality was a way of life; and, thanks to slavery, people had the leisure time to indulge in the latest pleasures. The Christian message of holy living was new to that culture, and it was not easy for these young believers to fight the temptations around them. These verses provide four reasons why they should live a holy life and abstain from sensual lusts. May they be enough not only to call each of us away from sin, but to lives that are pleasing to the Lord who bought us.

OBSERVATION: Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to the *Father*, *Jesus*, and the *Holy Spirit*.
Key Words: *God*, *Jesus*, *Holy Spirit*, and *urge/exhort*
3. The use of the contrasting word *but* was used twice in 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8. Mark each time the word is used. Choose one of those times and record what is being contrasted.
4. The term of conclusion, *therefore*, was used in verse 8. Mark the word; record the conclusion and what it was based upon.

5. Share one thing these verses reveal about:

God

Jesus

Holy Spirit

1 THESSALONIANS 4:1,2

1. Paul reminded the believers in Thessalonica that he had taught them *how to walk and to please God*. What phrase did he use in this verse that indicates the Christian walk cannot ever be viewed as an “arrived at” experience; that there is always a calling for improvement?

- a. Using synonyms, define the word *abound*.

- b. What is the opposite of the word *abound*?

2. Christians can walk in a way that *pleases* God. What insights do the following verses teach us about *pleasing* God?

Romans 8:8

Hebrews 11:6

Hebrews 13:16

1 John 3:22

- a. Summarize the message of these verses.

3. Pleasing God includes both denying what is wrong and doing what is right. Which tends to be more difficult for you?

Why?

- a. What does Galatians 5:16,17 teach us about *walking in the flesh* and *walking in the Spirit*?

- 1.) What are your personal clues as to identifying if you are *walking in the flesh* or *the Spirit*?

4. Write the words of 1 Thessalonians 4:2.

- a. Consider what you know about the commandments of God. Do you think that you have enough knowledge of how to walk in a way to please God?

- 1.) If your answer is “no”, what more would you like to know??

- 2.) If your answer is “yes”, how is Paul’s statement in 1 Thessalonians 4:2 a challenge to you to *walk* as God would have you *walk*?

1 THESSALONIANS 4:3-6

1. According to verse 3, what is *the will of God*?
 - a. *Sanctification* indicates a life lived for God's purposes. In context, what particular action is Paul addressing?
 - b. Define the word *abstain* as it applies to *sexual immorality*.
2. In all areas, specifically the area of *sexual immorality*, we are to *know how to possess our own vessel in sanctification and honor*. We should know how to "control our bodies" in a way that reflects our understanding that we have been *sanctified* (set apart for God's purposes) and are to live for His *honor*. What does 1 Corinthians 6:19,20 teach us about this?
 - a. What change does Romans 6:19 demand?
 - b. How does a life given to *sexual immorality* dishonor God?
3. According to 1 Thessalonians 4:5, who are we no longer to live like?
 - a. Read the glorious words of Ephesians 2:1-5 and record the contrast between a life without Christ and a life with Him.
 - 1.) Describe a life lived *according to the course of this world*.
 - b. Reflect upon verse 4 and record who made the change in you and why He did it.
4. Notice from 1 Thessalonians 4:6, that God takes sexual sin very seriously. In what ways does participating in sexual immorality *take advantage of* and *defraud* others?

5. Explain the phrase *the Lord is the avenger of all such* in your own words.

a. Why do you think believers don't take this warning seriously?

1 THESSALONIANS 4:7

1. 1 Thessalonians 4:6-8 provides four reasons to *abstain from sexual immorality*. Fill in the blanks to discover these reasons.

#1 (verse 6) *the _____ is the _____ of _____ such,*

#2 (verse 7) *God did not _____ to _____, but in _____.*

#3 (verse 8) *he who _____ this does not _____ man, but _____.*

#4 (verse 8) *who (God) has also _____ His _____.*

2. Paul referred to *sexual immorality* as *uncleanness*. Define the word *uncleanness* as it relates to *sexual immorality*.

3. Notice the word *call* in verse 7. How does a consciousness of the fact that God calls each and every believer to a certain way of life impact you?

4. What has God *called* us away from?

5. What has God *called* us to?

a. *Holiness* is not only a life that refrains from sin, it is a life lived actively doing good. How might practicing *sexual immorality* (or any sin) prevent someone from doing the good God has called them to do?

1 THESSALONIANS 4:8

1. *Therefore, he who rejects this does not reject man, but God...* Rationalization of sexual sin is rampant today, even in the church. Adherence to God's call to sexual purity is often seen as rejecting man. In what ways do you see this occurring?

2. In what ways is *rejecting* the command to live sexually pure a statement of *rejecting* God?
 - a. Consider the words of Psalm 119:118. *You (God) reject all those who stray from Your statutes.* This does not mean that God *rejects* a believer to the point of denying them salvation. What do you think it does mean?

3. When a believer gets snagged into rejecting God's commands regarding *sexual purity*, she has probably fallen prey to one or more of the following deceptions. Take each of these and explain them in your own words as it relates to *sexual impurity*.

Wrong thinking

Poor judgment

Compromise

Selfishness

4. *God has given us His Holy Spirit* (1 Thessalonians 4:8). It is the Holy Spirit that produces the fruit of self-control in the life of the believer. Verify this by writing the words of Galatians 5:22,23.

5. What is the promise of Galatians 5:16?
 - a. We cannot simultaneously walk in the desires of the flesh and walk in the desires of the Holy Spirit. What does this mean to you?

6. In what way is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in your life a deterrent to ungodly behavior?

REVIEW:

1. Why is it necessary that we be reminded about God's instructions for our lives?
2. How would you respond to someone who says it is possible to be a good Christian while also being sexually immoral?
3. Consider the four reasons to abstain from *sexual immorality* in verses 6-8. How are these reasons a deterrent for you to abstain from fulfilling the ungodly desires of your flesh?
4. In what ways have you been challenged by this lesson to walk in purity in all of God's ways?

*Therefore, having these promises, beloved,
let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit,
perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

- 2 Corinthians 7:1

Observation Worksheet

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

¹ Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God; ² for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus. ³ For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; ⁴ that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, ⁵ not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; ⁶ that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord *is* the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. ⁷ For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. ⁸ Therefore he who rejects *this* does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.