

MEMORY VERSE

It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; 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; and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-6

CORE COMPETENCIES

Core Beliefs

- Trinity
- Salvation by Grace
- Authority of Bible
- Personal God
- Identity in Christ
- Church
- Humanity
- Compassion
- Eternity
- Stewardship

Core Practices

- Worship
- Prayer
- Bible Study
- Single-Mindedness
- Biblical Community
- Spiritual Gifts
- Giving Away My Time
- Giving Away My Money
- Giving Away My Faith
- Giving Away My Life

Core Virtues

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness/Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- **Self-Control**

"I have power, through Christ, to control myself."

- Hope
- Humility

Monday

Begin your time in prayer. Bring before God any concerns you may have.

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 three times.

Using the passage below, mark any key words/ideas, phrases or words that don't make sense to you, and repeated words.

¹Finally, 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. ²For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

³It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; ⁴that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, ⁵not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; ⁶and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you. ⁷For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. ⁸Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit.

⁹Now about brotherly love we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. ¹⁰And in fact, you do love all the brothers throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers, to do so more and more.

¹¹Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, ¹²so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 (NIV)

What instructions does Paul give in these verses?

What motivations does Paul give for living a holy life?

What do these verses tell us about God?

What do these verses tell us about people?

Close your time in prayer. Ask God to use this passage to instruct you how to live a holy life.

Tuesday

Begin your time in prayer, expressing your desire to hear God's voice through His Word today.

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12. Reread verses 1-2.

What does verse one tell us should be the motivation for living a holy life?

Under whose authority did Paul instruct the Thessalonian believers?

It was important for the new believers and now for us to understand that our pursuit of holiness is not conformity motivated out of fear or shame, but instead should be motivated out of a deep desire to please God. Spend a few moments reflecting on your life yesterday using the following questions:

How did you pursue living a holy life through your thoughts or actions?

Next to each of these items, note whether you acted out of motivation to please God. If not, what motivation were you acting on?

Close your time in prayer, asking God to give you a sense of his pleasure over you. Ask Him to root everything you do in a desire to please Him.

Wednesday

Begin your time in prayer, telling God of your desire to please Him in the way you live.

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12. Reread verses 3-8.

What does verse three state is God's will?

Sanctification comes from the Greek word *hagiasmos* which means to be consecrated or purified. It is a progressive process that all believers are engaged in as they become more like Christ.

What does Paul implore the Thessalonians to avoid?

In verse 4-6a, what instructions does Paul give the believers regarding how they should avoid sexual immorality?

Porneia is the Greek word that is translated as sexual immorality. This is a broad term that is used throughout scripture to describe any sexual thoughts or acts that are outside of God's design.

Read the following verses that are warnings against sexual immorality: Romans 13:12-14; 1 Corinthians 5:1-2; 1 Corinthians 6:13; 1 Corinthians 6:18.

Sit in silence and allow God to search your heart and show you any ways—in thought or action—in which you are succumbing to sexual immorality. Confess these to God.

Close your time in prayer asking God to direct you in how to live a holy and honorable life regarding your sexuality.

Thursday

Write down any concerns or distractions. Ask God to help you focus your mind and heart on Him during your time in the Word today.

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12. Reread verses 3-8.

In verses 6b-7, what reasons does Paul give for avoiding sexual immorality?

In verse seven, Paul again appeals to the Thessalonian believers to live holy lives, pure and pleasing to God. What does Paul say of those who do not follow the instruction to avoid sexual immorality?

What has God given us to enable us to live a holy life?

Read 1 Corinthians 10:13. What has God promised us regarding temptation?

Use verse seven to guide you in prayer, affirming your desire to live a holy life before God.

Friday

Begin your time in prayer. Ask God to give you insight into His word today.

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12. Reread verses 9-12.

In these verses what does Paul urge the Thessalonians towards?

What three instructions does verse eleven give and how do they relate to brotherly love?

If the believers follow these instructions in their daily life, what outcomes does verse twelve refer to?

Why is it important that the believers not be dependent on anyone?

What instruction from verses nine through twelve do you sense as an area of growth? How will you pursue growth in this area?

Close your time in prayer. Ask God to give you an ever-increasing love for your fellow believers and for those who do not yet know Christ.