

PTI Conference
Bible Exposition – 1 Thessalonians



1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

4:1 is start of new section of the letter, dealing with issues in the church. This may be part of what is lacking (3:10).

How can sinful people ever please God? Only because he has transformed us, given us his Holy Spirit and now empowers us to serve him (2 Thess 1:11).

There is no pleasing God apart from saving faith (Heb 11:5-6). What pleases God?

Progress is pleasing to God

Paul is not asking new things of the church, but to live out what they were taught “more and more” (4:1). You will never be finished with living to please God, more and more. Paul knew this (Phil3:12-14). Peter knew this (2 Pet 1:5-8). It pleases God when you make progress and grow in your faith. Are you making progress?

Holiness is pleasing to God

Paul targets some problem areas in the church. Sanctified means set apart for God, set apart from sin. Not only what happens to Christian when saved (1 Cor 6:11), but also process that continues (Phil 3:13-14).

Don’t need to ask God if he wants this for you, he does! (4:3). He wants you to be holy in your sexual relations. God has called you to purity. The only legitimate outlet for sexual activity is that between husband and wife. All others are immoral.

The answer to these strong temptations? 1 Cor 6:18, 2 Tim 2:22, Rom 12:1.

Brotherly love is pleasing to God

Church were already an example to others in the way they loved each other. It is defining characteristic of Christians that they love each other (1 John 2:9-10 and 3:14).

If you find it hard, remember Christ’s love for you, demonstrated at the cross (Rom 5:8).

Living responsibly is pleasing to God

What is your ambition? 4:11 might seem quite simple, but is profound. Getting on with the ordinary things of life is pleasing to God if we are careful to live for his glory.

“There is not an inch of any sphere of life over which Jesus Christ does not say, “Mine”

Don’t get carried away with what the world values. Ordinary life is not less spiritual if it is lived with reference to God. God can use quite lives to witness to him.

We want to please God who loves us and saved us. How can we live like this? Because he gives us his Holy Spirit (see Rom 8:4-8).

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