

The Church and The Blessed Hope The Pleasing Walk of Sexual Purity I Thessalonians 4:1-8

Introduction - “For us as believers the blessed hope is the coming again of Jesus Christ....” but in the mean time our feet are still down here on the ground and til Jesus comes we need to do some walking. We are to walk in a way that is pleasing to God!

We come to a new section of Paul’s first letter to the Thessalonians.

- Ch. 1, Commadation • Ch. 2-3, Vindication • Ch. 4-5, Exhortations & Instruction

Note - vs. 1, “*furthermore*” literally “*finally*.” We “*beseech*” or “*beg*” and “*exhort*” or literally “*encourage*.”

1. How You Should Walk! The Christian life.

- a. It demands life. Dead sinners can’t walk.
- b. It requires growth. A baby can’t walk.
- c. It suggests progress.

2. The Motive for Our Walk. To please God.

3. It Should Be a Growing Walk. Abound more and more!

4. Based on God’s word. Commandments.

How are we to walk and please God? In sexual purity, vv. 3-8.

Eight reasons we should walk in *Sexual Purity*.

1. It’s the Will of God. vs. 3

- The will of God, found in the word of God!
- Sanctification
 - Positional - is by the Father’s will.
 - Progressive - in the Father’s word.
 - Perfective - at the Father’s time.
- Abstain - to keep completely away from.
- Fornication - Greek word, *porinea*.

2. Your Body Belongs to God, vs. 4.

“Vessel” - wife or body?

- Wife - the sanctity of marriage. Genesis 2; Jesus, Matt. 19; Paul, I Cor. 7; Sanctification and honor. Give your spouse a wonderful gift. Purity! Body, I Cor. 6:19-20.

3. Sexual Immorality is the Way of those Who Know Not God, vs.5

- “Know not God” the Greek or Roman word.
- The Christian know’s God & God is holy!

4. It’s Harmful to Others, vs. 6a

- It’s not true “love,” it’s lust!
- God’s love - Agape, I Cor. 13.

5. Sexual Immorality will Bring the Judgement of God, vs. 6b

- Gal. 6:7, “be not deceived, God is...”
- Illustration - David, Ps. 32 & 51

6. Sexual Immorality is Contrary to Your Calling from God, vs. 7

- Out of the world - out of
- Into fellowship - in
- Back out into the world - a salt and light
- Talk about holiness!

7. Sexual Immorality is Despising God, vs. 8

8. Sexual Immorality Grieves the Holy Spirit of God, vs. 8

- Who is the Holy Spirit?
- What does He do?
 - The non-Christian
 - The Christian

- Every Christian has the Holy Spirit
- But not to all filled, Eph. 5:18

Holiness is a right relationship with God.

- God the Father - who called us
- God the Son - who died for us
- God the Holy Spirit - who indwells us, fills us.....
- Holy in vs. 7 is emphatic!

If we rearrange his four points in a theological order, the apostle is making four affirmations. First, God's call is to holiness. 'Be holy', he says, 'because I am holy'. Secondly, God's will is our holiness. Thirdly, God's Spirit is a holy Spirit who is given to all his people in order to make them holy (2 Thess. 2:13). Fourthly, God's judgement will fall upon all unholiness. Therefore, without holiness it is impossible to please God.