

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

A. Command to be sexually pure (1-8)

Cross Reference

- 1 Timothy 4:12 “Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers

What kind of teaching had Paul and his team given them before?

Paul had shared about their history and background, where they had come from in their Christian walk. Now he would give them God’s standard for holy living.

- 1 Corinthians 6:18 - “Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral and adulterous.”
- Hebrew 13:4 - “Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.”
- Ephesians 5:5 - For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.”
- Romans 13:14 - “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desire.”
- Psalms 51:10 - Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.”
- Colossians 3:5 - “Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desires, and covetousness, which is idolatry.”
- Titus 2:12 - Training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age.”

1. Finally, then - Using the word “ finally” here doesn’t necessarily denote the end of the book as much as it shows us a transition is taking place between the two segments of this book. Paul has shared about their history and background, where they had come from their Christian walk.

2. We request and exhort - Paul continues his practice of encouraging Christlike behavior through encouragement and exhortation rather than only point-blank commands.

We see in (v.2) he had also given them commands and instruction, but he doesn't choose

.21 only one method of communication. Both methods are useful and instruction, but he doesn't choose only one method of communication.

Both alongside them like a father and pleaded with them like a father would his own children. From this we learn how much he cared for them. His chosen for them was genuine and from the hearing.

3. "As to how you ought to walk and please God — "Walk" is a word often used in the Bible to describe a believer's life as well as his relationship with the Lord.

It shows us that our life should be one of action. Our life has direction and a purpose.

4. Just as you actually do walk - Paul makes it clear that he is not accusing them. He is not blaming them for not doing this. Even people who are doing well need encouragement to keep doing well and to do better.

A. Be encouraging to others.

B. Success yesterday does not guarantee success tomorrow

Example 2013 San Antonio Spurs

Application: Whatever you have done in the past, good, or bad, you need to move past it. Face each new day with purpose, relying on God's strength for victory.

5. That you excel more - This was Paul's hope. As well as they were doing, he wanted them to do better.
6. (V.2) - We need lots of reminders - Many Christians like to learn "new truth."
7. (V.3) - For this is the will of God - God's will in the following verses is very clear: He wants us to be holy and pure and to follow His guidelines for proper exercise of our sexual desires.
8. Your satisfaction, that you abstain from sexual immorality - there was little shame. Religious practice - Temple prostitution was commonplace.

Thessalonians believers grew up in this environment. Other verses (2 Tim.2:22)

9. (V.4-5) there are two possible interpretations for this verse.

One is that “his own vessel” refers to one’s spouse (1 Cor. 7: 2-5)
Husband should cherish his marriage (Hebrew 13:4).

The second possible interpretation is that “his own vessel” refers to himself. In other words, he should use his sexual capacity in the way God intended not like the man in (Proverbs 5:16).

10. (V.6) It tells us that the person who commits fornication actually defrauds his brother. In other words, it is robbing the future husband.

11. (V.7) God has called us to purity. He does not want us to live the same way as before we were saved.

12. (V.8) This is God’s idea, not man’s. - If we refuse to change, we are rejecting God.