

Letters to Thessalonica

#5, such were some of you, I Thess 4:1-8

It seems like it would have been much easier if, at the instant of our new birth, we had an understanding of things like right and wrong, pure and impure and moral and immoral. But as the title (I Cor 6:11) of this lesson points out, our behavior depended on the time and location of our lives before salvation.

1 Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more. 2 For you know what commandments we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality;

[1.] v:1-2, walk and please God, From the choices below, pick out the one that best describes Paul's instruction.

- a) Keep up the good work, you're doing fine.
- b) excel more.
- c) You're way over the top, slack off a little!

[2.] v:1-2 again, From the list below, choose how and from whom, the Thessalonian believers learned how to conduct themselves?

- a) Their mothers and grandmothers.
- b) Their earthly fathers.
- c) Christian colleges.
- d) Paul, Silas & Timothy.
- e) None of the above.

[3.] v:2, by the authority of the Lord Jesus, In your own words, write down what this phrase means.

[4.] v:3, the will of God, What part of sanctification is this verse talking about?

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4 that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor (marriage),

5 not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God;

6 and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you.

[5.] v:3 again, Is this written to the USA, the world or Christians (the Thessalonians and us)?

[6.] v:4, possess his own vessel, Assuming this means one's own sexual reproductive organs, from the list below, choose what problem Paul's teaching was to correct.

- a) Sex outside of marriage.
- b) Sex between men and men.
- c) Sex between women and women.
- d) Sex between humans and what ever.
- e) All of the above.

[7.] v:5, the Gentiles, Recalling that this term can also mean "nations", who are we talking about here?

[8.] v:6, transgress and defraud his brother, In this verse, identify who the brother was?

[9.] v:6 again, the Lord is the avenger, If this doesn't mean that the guilty parties loose their salvation, what then happens to them?

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Note: Back in Lev 11:44, God is speaking through Moses concerning clean and unclean beasts. Lev 11:44 'For I am the Lord your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy. And you shall not make yourselves unclean with any of the swarming things that swarm on the earth.

This same command was repeated by Peter to Christians scattered abroad.

I Peter 1:14-16, As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, 15 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; 16 because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

[10.] I Pet 1:14, As obedient children, **Whose children are we talking about here?**

[11.] v:14 again, do not be conformed, **In your own words, what does this phrase mean to you?**

[12.] v:15, be holy yourselves, **This verse commands "the obedient children" to be Holy like whom?**

[13.] v:16, Regarding holiness for today's Christians, **choose that which would be a practical point of view.**

- a) This teaching is old fashioned and doesn't apply today.
- b) When raising your kids, give them a moral education but, when they are raised, don't worry about it..
- c) Its just for people involved in Christian ministries.
- d) It's OK as long as it doesn't interfere with me doing my thing.
- e) None of the above

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Back to I Thess 4:7-8.

I Thess 4:7 For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification (purity).

8 So, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.

[14.] v:16, YOU SHALL BE HOLY, Therefore, since Christians are children of God, what reason does God give for them to be holy?

[15.] I Thess 4:7, God has not called us, From the list below, choose the phrases that describe impurity.

- a) Filthiness, silly talk, coarse jesting (Eph 5:4).
- b) Gay life style.
- c) Sanctification (purity, holiness).
- d) Sex outside of marriage.

[16.] v:8, he who rejects this, It's possible that a Christian who rejects this teaching, is not aware that they are rejecting God. Write down some possible results of a Christian rejecting God.

[17.] question [16.], In your congregation if some one has rejected the teachings on sexual purity, where do they usually up and go?

[18.] v:8 again, not rejecting man, Why would the average church attendee prefer to think they were rejecting man rather than God ?

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[19.] Since some of the believers at Thessalonica were living an impure life, what signal did it send to the surrounding community?

[20.] v:8 again, gives His Holy Spirit to you, As a true believer, why would you think the Holy Spirit would minister sexual purity to you?