

CHOOSE THIS DAY WHOM YOU WILL SERVE

Sermon Outline & Devotional Guide

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

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- + John 8:32, "Jesus said, "You will know the truth and the truth will make you free" (NASB).
- + 1 Corinthians 6:18-20, "Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. ¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body." (NASB).

- The Greek New Testament word for "holy" is [ἅγιος; hagios]. It means "to be _____."

How Do We Live Lives That Are Holy To Honor God?

1. We are to walk and excel in sanctification in our _____ (vv. 1-2).

- The word translated as "sanctification" is the Greek New Testament word [ἁγιασμός; hagianismos]. This word means "to be set apart for the glory of God."
- The word translated as "walk" is the Greek New Testament word [περιπατέω; peripateō]. This word means "to walk" as to walk, but it also was used to mean "to walk with an attitude to make _____."

Three Aspects To Salvation

- (a) Salvation has a _____ aspect. The theological word for this past aspect is _____.

- + Hebrews 10:10, "By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all" (NASB).
- + Romans 5:9, "Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him" (NASB).

- (b) Salvation has a _____ aspect. The theological word for this present aspect is _____.

- + Hebrews 6:1, "Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity" (NASB).

- (c) Salvation has a _____ aspect. The theological word for this future aspect is _____.

- + Ephesians 5:27, "That He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless" (NASB).
- + 1 Thessalonians 4:3, "It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality now and in the future" (PAR).

2. We are to walk and excel in sanctification in our present _____ (vv. 3-6).

- The Bible says to abstain from sexual immorality. The words "sexual immorality" is the Greek New Testament word [πορνεία; porneia]. This is where we get our English word _____. This word was a broad term used to referred to any kind of sexual action with someone you were not married to as husband and wife.
- + 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, "Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God" (NASB)

What Do The Words In 1 Cor. 6:9-11 Mean?

- (a) Fornicators — this is the Greek New Testament word [πόρνος; pornos]. This is the same word we just saw and it was a broad term to refer to any kind of sexual sin outside a _____ heterosexual marriage. This immoral sin is an abomination to God.
- (b) Idolaters — this is the Greek New Testament word [ἰδωλολάτρης; eidōlōlatrēs] and it refers to anyone who bows down to any false religious system or false god, _____ and _____ being the chief of them.

- (c) Adulterers — this is the Greek New Testament word [μοιχός; moichos]. Because marriage is _____ and _____, any sexual acts outside of your own marriage, is tedious in God's sight. In fact, in the Old Testament, God required the death penalty for anyone who did it.
- (d) Effeminate — this is the Greek New Testament word [μαλακός; malakos]. This word was used in a broad way to describe several perversions — the male who is the submissive one in a homosexual relationship; a male prostitute, men acting and dressing like women; the self-indulgent, but also the person who is a pleasure seeker with no sense of their _____ to others.
- (e) Homosexuals — this is the Greek New Testament word [ἀρσενικοίτης; arsenokoitēs]. This word refers to any kind of same sex relationship or experience. It does not refer to the person who has homosexual desires or tendencies or feelings and does not _____ on them.
- (f) Thieves — this is the Greek New Testament word [κλέπτης; kleptēs]. This is where we get our English word _____. Thievery was high in Paul's day. Homes did not come with locks on doors and the 3 most common places where thievery was high were public baths and gyms — people would steal your clothes while you were bathing or working out. Rome allowed the death penalty for both and one more — if you stole at night.
- (g) The covetous or greedy — this is the Greek New Testament word [πλεονέκτης; pleonektēs] and this referred to those who have to have more and more luxury to be _____ because you have what others do not. It also referred to having no regard to who you took _____ of to get it.
- (h) Drunkards — this is the Greek New Testament word [μέθυσος; methusos]. This referred to the person who has _____ drinking to the point of drunkenness.
- (i) Revilers — this is the Greek New Testament word [λοιδόρος; loidoros]. This word referred to those who _____ and _____ others.
- (j) Swindlers — this is the Greek New Testament word [ἄρπαξ; harpax]. This word refers to those who _____ others for profit or gain. This referred to those who were extortioners, embezzlers, promoters of false advertising and selling damaged goods.

3. We are to walk and excel in sanctification in our _____ (vv. 7-8).

- + *Philippians 3:9-11*, "And may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, ¹⁰that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; ¹¹in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead" (NASB).
- + *Romans 12:1-2*, "Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect" (NASB).
- + *1 Thessalonians 3:13*, "May He, as a result, make your hearts strong, blameless, and holy as you stand before God our Father when our Lord Jesus comes again with all His holy people" (NLT).
- + *Colossians 3:23*, "Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people" (NLT).
- + *2 Corinthians 8:7*, "But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also" (ESV).

How Do We Walk & Excel In Our Sanctification and Aptitude?

- (a) There is a negative component here: we must know and admit temptations (sexual) that we are _____ to succumb to in life (vv. 5-6).
- (b) There is a positive component here: our bodies means becoming involved in holy and godly pursuits, finding Christian friends who will hold us _____ and cultivating faith in the Holy Spirit's power to transform us into the _____ of Jesus Christ (vs. 4).
 - + *Galatians 6:7*, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap" (NASB)

Two Final Words

1. Being a Christian means we are expected by God to _____ and _____ in our faith (vs. 7, Heb. 5:12-14).
2. To reject holiness, sanctification and spiritual maturity, is to reject _____ (vs. 8; Josh. 24:15).

***** Next Steps Devotional Questions *****

1. What is your next step with God in the area of holiness, godliness, morality and sanctification?
2. How can you help another believer in this area?