

# Home Group Helps

## 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

### *Living in the Light of His Return: The Christian's Duty: Your Walk-God's Will*

**I. Your Walk – Pleasing God (v.1-2)** – <sup>1</sup> 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 may excel still more. <sup>2</sup> For you know what commandments we gave you by *the authority of the Lord Jesus*.

**II. God's Will – Your Sanctification (v.3-8)** – <sup>3</sup> For this is the will of God, your sanctification; *that is*, that you abstain from sexual immorality; <sup>4</sup> that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, <sup>5</sup> not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; <sup>6</sup> *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*. <sup>7</sup> For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification. <sup>8</sup> Consequently, he who rejects *this* is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.

#### 1. Launching Question(s):

- For many today, the word “duty” has negative connotations. What do you think of when you think of a Christian’s duty?

#### 2. Observation Question(s):

- The Apostle has devoted most of Chapters 1-3 to emphasizing indicatives (what Christians are). Now, he is emphasizing imperatives (what Christians do). Why is this order of indicatives (doctrine) before imperatives (duty) so important? What happens if you get the order reversed?
- Paul commands the Thessalonians that they “ought to walk to please God” and affirms that they are already doing so. Yet, he also commands them to “excel still more” (v.1).
- What Biblical principle(s) does this call to “excel still more” highlight? Why is this important?

#### 3. Interpretation Question(s):

- Both ancient Greek/Roman and modern American cultures have embraced sexual immorality as the norm.
- What should be the response of the church (see vs. 4-8)?

#### 4. Reflection Question(s):

- Why do you suppose that Paul almost appears to define “your sanctification” by abstaining “from sexual immorality” (v.3-4)?
- Our church’s stance is that sex is a profound gift and blessing from God and that it should only be practiced within the bounds of covenant marriage between one man and one woman.
- How might you defend this stance using this text?

#### 5. Application Question(s):

- How can you “possess” your “own body/vessel in sanctification and honor” this week?