



1 Thessalonians 4

1 Thessalonians 4 – How the Church is Sanctified

I. God's Will: Your Sanctification v1-2

A. Urge and Exhort towards something and because of something

B. Abound in:

i. Our Walks

ii. Pleasing God

iii. The Change

II. The process of Sanctification and trusting God for it v3-8

A. Sexual Morality – abstaining from what doesn't reflect God

B. Possess this vessel – to have a know how given from God

C. How we interact with others – having a fear of who the Lord is and who others are

D. Not rejecting the Holy Spirit

III. Sanctification through His Love v9-12

A. God's *Agape* love usward, our new *Philadelphia* love outward

B. Increase more and more in this Sanctification

C. Increasing in Sanctification lead to:

i. Leading a quiet life

ii. The Church carrying out its charge

iii. A further increase in God's sanctifying work in our life

IV. But what about those who have died before the Lord's return v13-18

Key Words: Sanctification 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4

Caught up 1 Thessalonians 4:17

1 Thessalonians 4:1-2

The urging and exhorting Paul was doing the Thessalonians in was what is found in Jesus. Paul is urging and encouraging the Christian toward Jesus, because of Jesus of what He has done. Paul then writes that they constantly overflow in how they ought to walk and please the Lord, the Thessalonians knew what they were to do because Paul had already passed to them all that had been given and encouraged to the Church. The Thessalonians were exhorted to abound in the Word they have received of who God is and the charge and encouragement also given by Paul and those who traveled with him. God's intention for every individual in the Church to be strengthened and continue to be strengthened by His Word and to be encouraged and strengthened by others who walk worthy and pleasing to the Lord; and Paul was passing this charge on to all Christians there in the region and where ever the testimony of the Gospel would go, that they were all to walk worthy of their calling both to Salvation and to the good works which He has for us, this is not something exclusive to only the Apostles or Church "offices".

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

Paul implies here that there is a strength or power to be obtained or possessed to hold oneself off from lusts of our flesh. This is not something that any of us are able to do on our own, so this is a power that is given so that Sanctification may take place. This Sanctification not only has physical aspects and power to possess, but also a know-how. Paul says that there is knowledge that we don't have and that we had no possibility of knowing of before our new life so that we may possess our bodies through this sanctifying work which He is doing and completes, and which brings honor and favorable speaking of who He is. Another uncleanness which Paul says we will have to allow the Holy Spirit to sanctify us in is us taking advantage of others and defrauding them, when we overstep and we go too far and step over what is right in living according to the new life we've been given by placing our trust in Jesus Christ. God's desire is that we will be holy, or sanctified because He is Holy.

1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

Because we have this new love, God's *Agape* love which has been brought in to live when us when we accepted Jesus Christ as our savior and placed our trust in Him for our lives and how were supposed to act and behave that the Holy Spirit being given to each individual believer and He brought God's *Agape* love to dwell and be the working fruit in our lives. The evidence then that God's *Agape* love is being allowed to work is that we have *Philadelphia* love flowing out, and which leads us to lead a quiet life by just resting in the Lord and His completed work, we're lead to be occupied with and carry out the good works which God has for us, Paul's letter to Titus is full of this, and that we realize sanctification isn't going to just happen without us spending time with the Jesus and getting to know Jesus, just fall in love with Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Paul address the Thessalonians fear for believers who had or may die before Jesus returns to snatch away His Church from the wrath that is to come. The truth that the Church will not go through the Great Tribulation was to be an encouragement to the Church and should still be. Just as the church is to be expectant of Christ's imminent return for His Church, we are to be encouraged that we are secure in His hands and He has not forgotten us nor will He ever leave us.

Isaiah 42:13; Jeremiah 25:30; Hosea 11:10; Joel 3:16; Amos 1:2; Revelation 4:1, 10:3, 1 Corinthians 15:51-52