

## Exceling in Holiness and Love

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

- 1) Holiness *begins* when we trust Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord
- 2) Holiness *engages* when we live to please God (1-2)
- 3) Holiness *matures* as we learn to control our bodies (3-8)
  - a) We live to please God, not man
  - b) Our bodies do not control us, we control them
  - c) Our behavior is distinct from unbelievers
  - d) He who rejects purity rejects God Himself
- 4) Holiness *shines* when we love one another (9-10)
- 5) Holiness is *active* as we live peacefully (11-12)
- 6) So what?
  - a) Freethinkers do their own thing, so *walk to please God*.
  - b) Unbelievers live recklessly, so *live with purity*.
  - c) Skeptics are watching, so *treat them with respect*.
  - d) Doubters are listening, so *beware how you speak*.
  - e) Atheists are hurting, so *listen, love, & care for them* (cf. Col. 4:6).