



BCF SERMON SERIES

The
LABOR *of* **LOVE**
First Epistle to the Thessalonians

God's will for our lives: Sanctification

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. For you know what commandments we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; 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.

For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification. So, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8



I Thessalonians 4:1-8

I. God's Commands.

II. God's Will.

III. God's Warning.

IV. God's Resource.

I. God's Commands. v.1-2

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.

Dining in
the pig's
trough

Does this
look like
freedom?



Dining
room in
the Royal
Palace in
Madrid

A fine
place to
dine 😊



II. God's Will. v.3-5

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

that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God;

Sexual Immorality: (GK) PORNEA: a general term that refers to any form of illegitimate sex, includes adultery, fornication, pornography and homosexual relations.

Sex is like a Fire...

a great blessing...



Smell the apple butter bubbling

or damages and destroys...



How's this dinner going to taste?

If you give your mind to the Lord,
you'll be an intelligent Christian.

If you give your heart to the Lord,
you'll be a passionate Christian.

If you give your sexuality to the Lord,
you'll be a powerful Christian.

The Process of Change: V.I.M.

VISION,

INTENTION, and

METHODS

The Renovation of the Heart, Dallas Willard

METHODS

1. **GET HONEST.** Find someone you trust; establish some accountability. Be frank about the struggle.
2. **GET SMART:** Avoid temptation. Flee temptation.
3. **GET SATISFIED:** Married couples need to have a regular, satisfying, sexual relationship.
4. **GET VICTORY:** It's possible to walk in purity. Believe that.
5. **GET CLEANSED:** Remember Jesus' body broken and His blood spilled to make you clean. Receive His cleansing. Do you hear me? Receive now His cleansing.
6. **GET HUMBLE:** Beg God for His power in your weakness. Seek His filling. Seek the things above.

METHODS

1 Corinthians 6:18 **Flee immorality.** Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.

James 4:7 **Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.**

God calls us to flee temptation, then resist the devil. We're tempted to resist temptation and flee the devil. That doesn't work, but following God's strategy is powerful.

III. God's Warning. v.6-7

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. For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification.

Sanctification: holy, pure, consecrated, set apart for God

Signs of this process of being set apart for God:

1. This process has a beginning. Has that consecration to God begun in your life?
2. God initiates this process. It begins when the Holy Spirit enters your life. Can you see Him at work in your life?
3. It comes with a deep love for God and the things of God.
4. It causes us to hate sin, and to desire to be cleansed from all evil.
5. It moves us toward a balanced life, with self-control, directed by God Himself.

Sanctification: holy, pure, consecrated, set apart for God

Fruits of being progressively molded into the likeness of Jesus:

1. We grow more grateful for God's graces.
2. We grow more humble and God focused.
3. We grow less concerned with the torments and temptations of this world.
4. We grow more enraptured by the beauty of Christ.

IV. God's Resource. v. 8

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