

# **Pleasing God**

**3-12-23**

1 Thessalonians 4:1 (ESV)

Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to **Please God**, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more.

**Remember the Thessalonians were gentiles and grossly immoral and bound in an oppressive pagan religion and who knew nothing about the Christian life. Turning to Christ changed all of that. After accepting the love of God through Jesus Christ, the Thessalonians have a desire to Please God. Thus, Paul gives instructions about how they can Please God. The way this instruction is presented ties very closely with our teaching on “Freedom” and the Little Red Wagon. Paul instructs but does not point the finger, condemn, or put them under the law. Paul reinforces what he has already said in 1Thess.1:9: **Behavior is not about “turning from” sin but it is all about “turning to” God.** As God’s people, God desires us to behave like the “Chosen” that we truly are.**

1 Thessalonians 4:3 (ESV)

For this is the will of God, your sanctification!

**Sanctification means to be holy, to be set apart. The Greek word for Sanctification is translated “be holy” multiple times in the NT. It is God’s desire that believers behave as those “set apart” for God. However, to “confidently” move forward we must remember that at salvation were fully sanctified or set apart for God. Only now we are being asked to grow to behave in a more and more godly way. Example:**

1 Corinthians 1:30 (ESV)

And because of HIM you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us ... .. sanctification and redemption.

**At salvation we were fully sanctified, set apart for God. Jesus is our Sanctification. Yet now our behavior is being continually transformed to be more like Jesus. Paul admits that he is not perfect but presses forward to grow in the likeness of Jesus.**

Philippians 3:12 (ESV)

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has (already) made me HIS OWN (sanctified me).

**Paul knows that God has already fully Sanctified him through Jesus' death on the cross. Paul says, "Christ Jesus has (already) made me HIS OWN (sanctified me)." Jesus is Paul's sanctification. However, Paul presses on to Please God. With this in mind, Paul presents divine instructions that have come "down the line" from God, "through the Lord Jesus"! This is not from man to please man, but from God to please God.**

1 Thessalonians 4:3–6 (ESV) NO/OH

You abstain from sexual immorality; <sup>4</sup> that each one of you know how to control your own body (sexually) in holiness and honor, <sup>5</sup> not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; <sup>6</sup> that no one transgress and wrong his brother in (regard to sexual sins) because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and warned you.

**We should take Pleasing God or growing in our Sanctification very seriously.**

1 Thessalonians 4:8 (ESV)

Therefore, whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

**We shouldn't disregard what is important to God. Even more so, because God has given us the Holy Spirit that empowers us to behave as God desires. We are even warned about ungodly pretenders without the Spirit. The ungodly lack power.**

2 Timothy 3:5 (ESV)

In the last days there will be people having the appearance of godliness but denying its power. Avoid such people.

**The ungodly will increase in the last days. Note: Do not evangelize such people. Avoid such people.**

**But we are not ungodly. We gladly accept instruction about Pleasing God. Thus, God now tells us the one thing that Pleases HIM most of all. God desires that we love one another. Of course, we are to love God with all our heart and soul, but for believers that love is evidenced by our love for one another.**

1 Thessalonians 4:9, 10 (ESV)

Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another. We urge you, brothers, to do this more and more.

**God HIMSELF teaches us to love one another. This describes believers' divine relationship through the indwelling Holy Spirit. At conversion, believers become lifelong pupils to love one another. **Love is sanctified, holy, set apart, behavior.****

**Love is Pleasing God and evidence of our salvation!**

1 John 4:7 (ESV)

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

**Love is Pleasing God and evidence of the Spirit within us.**

Galatians 5:22 (ESV)

The fruit of the Spirit is love!

**Love reflects our relationship with God through Jesus. We have the capacity to love because God first loved us! **You want to Please God? Love one another!****

1 John 4:19 (ESV)

We love because HE first loved us.