

A disciple's call to sanctification
I Thessalonians 4:1-12

I. A call to please God (1,2)

A. A call to abound in faith (1)

1 Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God;

B. A call to heed his commands (2)

2 for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

II. A call to Holiness (3-8)

A. Vessel of holiness (3)

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

B. Vessel of honor (4,5)

4 that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, 5 not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God;

C. Vessel of dishonor (6-8)

6 that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. 7 For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. 8 Therefore he who rejects *this* does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

III. A call to love others (9-12)

A. Paul is affirming their love (9,10)

9 But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; 10 and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more;

B. Love will be a testimony to those outside the faith (11,12)

11 that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, 12 that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and *that* you may lack nothing.

Conclusion

1. Disciples have a call to please God. What area in your walk can you praise God for?
2. Disciples have a call to holiness. What is the one area that you have struggled with that you need to commit to God?
3. Disciples have a call to love others. Who is that one person that you can express God's love to this week?