

**Life After Conversion: Please God**  
I Thessalonians 4:1-12 / November 5, 2022

**Paul's Instructions Immediately After Their Conversion**

1. you received from us (4:1)
2. you know what instructions we gave you (4:2)
3. we told you beforehand (4:6)
4. solemnly warned you. (4:6)
5. you yourselves have been taught (4:9)
6. we instructed you, (4:11)

**Prayer: Introduction to Chapter 4**

Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints. (3:11-13, ESV)

**Please God (4:1-2)**

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. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

**1. Holiness in Marriage (4:3-8)**

For this is the will of God, your sanctification:

1. that you abstain from sexual immorality;
2. that each one of you know how to control his own **body** (*vessel, utensil, instrument, container*) in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God;

*“A man might have a mistress who could provide him also with intellectual companionship; the institution of slavery made it easy for him to have a concubine, while casual gratification was readily available from a harlot. The function of his wife was to manage his household and to be the mother of his legitimate children and heirs.”* (F. F. Bruce, qtd. in John Stott)

3. that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter,
4. because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

## 2. Love in Work (4:9-12)

### Why We Work

1. 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,
2. for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia.
3. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more,

*And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For not only has the word of the Lord **sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia**, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you **turned to God from idols** to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. (1 Thess. 1:6-10, ESV)*

### How We Work

1. and to aspire to live quietly, and
2. to mind your own affairs, and
3. to work with your hands, as we instructed you,

### What Results in Our Work

1. so that you may walk properly before outsiders and
2. be dependent on no one.