



Pleasing God

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

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As a child of my heavenly father, it is natural for me to desire to please God with my life.

1 Thessalonians 4:1 As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. 2 For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. (NIV)

Pleasing God is a great way to live because it is:

- Personal (Relationship over Rules)
- Progressive (Growth over Stagnation)
- **Sex**

1 Thessalonians 4:3 It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, 5 not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; (NIV)

God is pro-sex in the right context: marriage.

Hebrews 13:4 Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge. (NAS)

It is God's will for me to avoid sexual immorality so I can be like Jesus.

I cannot let my body control me. I need to have honor in my sexuality because I know God.

1 Corinthians 6:12 I have the right to do anything," you say – but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything" – but I will not be mastered by anything. 13 You say, "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both." The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.... 15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! (NIV)

1 Corinthians 6:16 Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." 17 But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit. 18 Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. (NIV)

Sex outside of God's will only hurts me and others.

1 Thessalonians 4:6 and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. 7 For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. 8 Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit. (NIV)

The Holy Spirit in me empowers me to be holy and sexually pure.

Galatians 5:16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. (NIV)

Ephesians 5:17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. 18 ...be filled with the Spirit. (NIV)

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly... (ESV)

1 Corinthians 6:19 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies. (NIV)

■ **Love**

1 Thessalonians 4:9 Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. 10 And in fact, you do love all of God's family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more, (NIV)

Love is the foundation of pleasing God.

■ **Work**

1 Thessalonians 4:11 and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, 12 so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody. (NIV)

I am called to avoid drama, mind my own business, and work hard so I am not a burden on believers and I earn the respect of unbelievers.

Do I have a desire to please God?