

Our study passage for this week is 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 where Paul writes about a life that is pleasing to God. He emphasizes pursuing sexual purity, pursuing a loving heart, seeking a quiet life and being an example to others.

Sex is not evil. God created it for the continuance of mankind and for pleasure within marriage. What makes it evil is when there is a self-centered desire to follow things that are contrary to the Word of God at the expense of others. What does the Word of God say about this subject? If you struggle in this area, what choices can you make starting today to begin leading a life that is pleasing to God?

We are reminded of Enoch that was "commended as one who pleased God" (Heb 11:5-6). The Bible gives many instructions on how to conduct the life we have been given. But, what does verse 6 of Heb 11 say is necessary to please God? It is amazing that with all the instructions we are given in the Word it boils down to this one thing. But it is not a small thing, is it? It takes dying to self.

Read Romans 12:1-2.

So when your flesh cries out or you don't feel like showing a "loving heart" or your attitude or actions are being a bad example to others, how do you rein it back in? Read Galatians 5:16-25 and Romans 8:1-13 to find the answer to avoid this "walking in the flesh". In all we do as Christians we should seek to please God. Many times we just don't have the strength to do what we ought to do in our own power. What can you do this week to take steps to strengthen yourself so that you can go in the direction God wants you to go? What is holding you back from pursuing this excellence? Re-read verse 11 of our study passage for the week. Have you witnessed a Christian that worships God through their work? When the pressure gets turned up how do they handle themselves? Like an accident along the road, stressors make people "look" and take notice of how you respond to the heat. Even the seemingly lowliest jobs can become a POWERFUL sermon when done with dignity, honesty, diligence and faithfulness. Our lives are sermons that can either draw others to Jesus OR push them away. Read Psalms 147:10-11.

July 8, 2018

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

*Living A Life That Pleases God*

Pastor Larry Kennedy



1. To please God should be the **pursuit** and **goal** of every Christian.  
2 Corinthians 5:9

2. There should be a huge difference between the **lifestyle** of those who follow Christ and those who do not.

3. Sanctified - Becoming more and more like Jesus Christ.

4. Sexual immorality - anything that has to do with sex being done in any capacity other than what God designed it to be.

5. God designed sex to be enjoyed between a **man** and **woman** when they are legally married to each other.

6. Pleasing God is not about getting His **approval** or **love** it's about living life to the **fullest**.

John 10:10

7. Live at peace...get along with people ☺

More and more...

- Live to please **God**
- Love **one another**

