

Text: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Finally, then, brothers,[a] 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. For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, 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.

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, for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.

Theme

The message of Christianity unites the full acceptance of the sinner before God in Christ with the call to a life of holiness. Abound more and more assumes that their heart has been changed in Christ.

Quotes

- *The message of Christianity unites the full acceptance of the sinner before God in Christ with the call to a life of holiness. Abound more and more assumes that their heart has been changed in Christ. - Thomas Chalmers -*
- *Never does the sinner find within himself so mighty a moral transformation as when, under the belief that he is saved by grace, he feels constrained thereby to offer his heart a devoted thing, and to deny ungodliness. - Thomas Chalmers -*

Application

1. How do you view your own life/sin? Do you say, *“I am such a sinner, I battle anger and unbelief or lust or some addiction . . . God must be so displeased with me?”* Rather, if you are in Christ, God is pleased with your life and sees your stumbling attempts at obedience.
 2. How do you view the lives/sin of others? Do you say, *“When are they ever going to get it? How long do I have to put up with them?”* OR do you say, *“Wow, God is pleased with them because they are in Christ – how can I encourage them in their pursuit?”* You cannot offer correction to someone until you first see that God is pleased with them.
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