

Living to please God 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12



1 Thessalonians 4:1 "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."

Our chief aim in life is to please God.

Why do we want to please God?

 Because we have been approved by God in our calling to be carriers and witnesses of the Gospel.

 As a person is saved by grace through faith in the Gospel, therefore we live to please the God of the Gospel.



Living a life pleasing to God means....

 Growing in personal holiness or what the Apostle call "sanctification".

 Growing in our love for one another or what John Wesley call social holiness.

1 Thess 4:3-8

³ For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, 5 not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; 6 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. ⁷ For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. 8 Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.



 "Porneia" is a term generally used throughout the Bible to describe many kinds of sexual sin such as prostitution, adultery, homosexuality, incest or fornication i.e. sexual relations outside of marriage. Learning to control our body is about "wanting Jesus to get glory. It is about wanting to control ourselves in the power God supplies. We have to learn to say no, but we don't just say no. We have to admit the inadequacy, and emptiness, of doing it on our own. We pray for Jesus's help, secure accountability, and craft specific strategies. We trust God's promises to supply the power for every good work and then act in faith that he will do it in and through us. And then we thank him for every Spirit-supplied strain and success and step forward in selfcontrol."

1 Thess 4:9-12

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, 10 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, 11 and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, 12 so that you may live properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.