

“Sanctification is the Will of God for You”

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

- A. Abstain from sexual immorality (1Th. 4:3-6).**
- B. Paul’s explanation (1Th. 4:7-8)**

A. Abstain from sexual immorality (1Th. 4:3-6).

- 1. (vs. 3) The Thess. had been instructed in the will of God (1Th. 4:1-2). Now Paul categorically stated it, using a series of appositives. He began with, “For this is the will of God”**
 - a. Appositive #1, “your sanctification;”**
 - b. Appositive #2, “that you abstain from sexual immorality;”**

- c. (vs. 4) Appositive #3, “that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,”
 - (vs. 5) “not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God;”
- d. (vs. 6) Appositive #4, “*and* that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you.”

B. Paul's Explanation (1Th. 4:7-8)

- 1. (vs. 7) "For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification."**
- 2. (vs. 8) "So, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you."**

Conclusion:

Paul had been discussing about how the Thessalonians were to “walk and please God” about which he urged them to “excel still more” (1Th. 4:1). They were aware of what that meant (vs. 2). But Paul explained one of the specific things that was incumbent on the Thessalonians in that regard, the will of God, which was their sanctification, namely, that they abstain from sexual immorality (1Th. 4:3-6). Paul explained

that we were called in sanctification (1Th. 4:7). To reject this notion is not merely to reject a manmade thesis, but God Himself who imparted His Holy Spirit to you (1Th. 4:8).