

# Sermon Outline

## HOW TO LIVE IN ORDER TO PLEASE GOD ... | Geoff Lin

Readings: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Q. How do you live to please God?"

### 1. This is nothing new ... (vv1-2)

1 Thess 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.

### 2. "God's will is that you should be sanctified ..." (vv3-8)

1 Thess 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; 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.

- "sanctified" (v3) (lit. "holified") = "holy" (v4) = "holy" (v7) = "Holy" (v8)
- sexuality as ONE example of sanctification

#### i. why it's good to do God's will ...

Reason #1: so no-one wrongs or takes advantage of a brother or sister

Reason #2: because God's way is better

#### ii. what enables us to do God's will

A carrot-and-stick approach to change and transformation

Why carrots are better than sticks (run \_\_\_\_\_, not run \_\_\_\_\_ )

God's gracious gift of His Holy Spirit to help you want that carrot

### 3. Ambitious to love one another (and all of God's family) ... (vv9-12)

1 Thess 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, 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.

- taught by God

- love for one another and all of God's family throughout Macedonia

- make it your ambition to live a quiet life

Rom 15:20 It has always been my **ambition** to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation.

2 Cor 5:6 Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. 7 For we live by faith, not by sight. 8 We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 9 So we make it our **goal [lit. ambition]** to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.

- We urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more ...

- A word about travelators ...

Recommended reading: Glynn Harrison (2017), *A Better Story: God, Sex and Human Flourishing*