

THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

1 Thessalonians 4

1 Thessalonians 4:1, "Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more."

1 Thessalonians 4:10, "And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more;"

Matthew 5:48, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

Philippians 3:12, "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus."

I. How Do You Treat Your Body?

1 Corinthians 9:27, "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."

1 Thessalonians 4:3, "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:"

God's will is your sanctification.

Your sanctification is abstaining from sexual immorality.

Paul points to three things we can DO to overcome sexual sin:

1. Decide to say no.

2. Trust the truth about your body.

Paul expresses the true nature of our bodies with two words:

Holy

Honorable

3. Accept the fact that impurity hurts everyone.

II. How Do You Handle Your Job?

The attitude that leads to excellence in your work is ambition.

To lead a quiet life

To attend to your own business

To work with your own hands

2 Thessalonians 3:11, "For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies."

Why is this an important ambition?

1. It gives a good witness.

2. It keeps us healthy & well grounded.

Want to be excellent?

John 8:29, "And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him."

Excellence is built in everyday places: sex and work.

Excellence is built on everyday decisions:

Don't be lustful and don't be lazy.

Be holy and be ambitious.

Excellence is built with everyday faith.