



LESSON FIVE

Kingdom Disciples 1 Thessalonians 4

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. For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own body[a] in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister.[b] The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.

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. 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, 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, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

1. According to Adrianna in the video lesson, what does it mean to be a “disciple who makes disciples”?

2. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:4; Luke 9:23; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 9:27; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Philippians 1:6; 2:12. According to these verses, what is God’s role in making us more like Christ? What is our part in growing to become more like Christ?

3. After reading 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8; Matthew 5:27-30; and 1 Corinthians 6:18-20, reflect on the following questions: Why does God take sexual immorality so seriously? How are we to view our bodies? What are some healthy personal boundaries we could develop from these verses?

4. Why does Paul move from writing about sexual immorality (vs. 3-8) to writing about love (vs. 9-12)? In your opinion, what's the logical flow of his argument? Why did he talk about love and not about rule-keeping?

5. Paul discussed sexual immorality because it was a great temptation for the Thessalonian believers. Paul addressed other issues in their letters to people and churches. If Paul wrote a letter to you, what would he say to encourage you? How might he challenge you? Which of God's promises would he remind you of?

6. Compare 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12 to 1 Peter 2:13-17. List the similarities that you notice. Are there any Christians you know who exemplify the qualities in these passages? Looking at your own life, which of these qualities are strengths and which do you need to develop?

7. In John 11:14-16, Jesus says that “fallen asleep” is a metaphor for dying. Paul not only uses this same metaphor in vs. 14-15, but also in 1 Corinthians 11:30; 15:6, 18-20. Why do you believe they chose this metaphor to refer to death? How might the idea of “fallen asleep” give us hope?

8. Look at vs. 13-18, and Matthew 24:30-31; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; & Revelation 19:11-16. How are these passages alike? With vs. 18 in mind, how might we use these passages to encourage others and give them hope?

PERSONAL GROWTH

1. Set aside 3 days this week to sit down and read 1 Thessalonians 1-4 in one sitting. Try reading from a different Bible version each time.
2. Memorize 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12.
3. Go through the above prompts and reflect on any the group didn't cover. You can also spend more time reflecting on the prompts and questions that you found interesting.
4. Read 1 Thessalonians 4 and apply the OIA Method of Bible study (Observe, Interpret, and Apply). During each step, ask yourself questions similar to the following:
 - Observe: What genre of scripture was the passage (Gospel, history, narrative, letters, wisdom, poetry, prophetic)? What took place during the passage? Did you notice any unique words? What words or phrases were repeated? Are there any new ideas in the passage?
 - Interpret: Why did the author write this verse/passage? What theological truths are taught? What do we learn about God? Where is God's goodness in this passage? What sin is being corrected by this passage? How does this passage reflect Christ?
 - Application: What's your main takeaway from the passage? How do these verses inspire hope? How does this passage encourage the reader to be more like Christ? Does the passage address any attitudes that need to be changed in you (or humanity as a whole)? Does the passage convict you to repent of anything? Does the passage challenge you to make different decisions?