

## *Living to Please God*

***“Finally, brothers, 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.” (1 Thessalonians 4:1-2)***

To live in this world there are two options:

***First:*** To live a life honoring God, dedicating your life to serve Him, to follow and to walk in His ways. This should not only from the surface of things but from the depth of your heart; to honor God in all aspects of your life. God will be the first in all things and He shall be the first of how we build relationships with the people around us; God shall monitor each and every kind of our relationships; friends, family, co- workers, etc. God’s finger must be there because without Him we are nothing, and we can do nothing.

***Second:*** To live away from God. You believe that God is there but you either do not believe in His omni-presence, or you believe in God but He is of second importance in your life. God is there only when you have problems or only when you need something from Him. Brothers and sisters, it must not be like this! Remember there is nothing in between – it is either you live with God or away from God. All what you have has come from God and what you have is to be for Him.

God came down from heaven; He became man, Jesus Christ, and died on the cross so to give us eternal life. He offered Himself for us. He suffered on the cross, and He took the punishment for our sins. He bought us and redeemed us by His own blood that was shed on the cross to offer us eternal life. He gave His own life for us to live. He had done it for us, are we not able to give back every thing for Him? The Bible said, ***“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come.” (2 Corinthians 5:15)*** As Jesus had bought us by His own blood He rightfully owned our lives. Therefore we ought to follow Him and to live a life pleasant to God; we ought to offer Him back what He offered to us. Because of His faithful love and sacrifices for us, Jesus should have the authority over our lives; and we are requested to follow His words and His instructions to live a life pleasing to Him.

- 1- ***“It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: That you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God.” (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5)*** The Bible says that God created us in His own image; He created us to be of the same character like Him. He wanted us to be similar to His Son Jesus Christ. God is Holy and He wanted us to become holy like Him. As we believe in Jesus we become children of God and so we call God Himself “Abba” or Father in heaven. God our Father said, ***“Be holy, because I am***

***holy.” (1 Peter 1:16)*** Therefore, we should live away from extramarital relationships and we should not live with other partner without marriage. But not only this, because Jesus said, ***“But I tell you the truth that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” (Matthew 5:28)*** We should be aware that God is not happy if we are watching pornography and spending time on TV movies or on web sites watching sexual immoral thins. We must be aware of the devil’s schemes. ***“The Lord God will punish men for all such sins as we have already told you and warned you. For God did not call us to be impure but to live a holy life. Therefore he who rejects these instructions does not reject man but God, who gives you His Holy Spirit.” (1 Thessalonians 4:5-8)***

- 2- ***“Now about brotherly love 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 the brothers. Yet we urge you, brothers, to do so more and more.” (1 Thessalonians 4:9-10)*** The mark of the life of Jesus Christ is “love.” He loved us and He died for us. We receive His love and this love transforms us and enables us to accept and to love others. Love is the most important in any relationship. Loving each other brings joy and peaceful surroundings. The love of God through Jesus Christ brings forgiveness and covers multitude of sins. The believers of Jesus should live loving each other; should support and encourage one another and should do everything in love.
- 3- ***“Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to 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.” (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12)*** The Lord God is a diligent God. He is not the God who sleeps or forgets. When He came down from Heaven, Jesus Christ, when He started to reach the people and preach to them the Good News of the Kingdom of God He was walking the whole day from village to village and from city to city, doing good works and miracles. And in the night He was spending time to pray. God wants us to be diligent people, responsible, accountable, not living in laziness, but people who can achieve things and perform task delegated to them. We ought to work day and night, laboring and toiling so that we will not be a burden to anyone.

***My dear and beloved:*** The word of God confirms the way that God wants us to live; it instructs us how to live in order to please God. Now, we urge you in the name of our LORD Jesus to do this more and more, as you agree to pray.

***My Prayer:*** *“Heavenly Father, I come before You in the name of Jesus who died on the cross to give me eternal life. Oh Lord, I thank You for your word that sanctified me with the truth; You are the truth, Lord Jesus. Help me, Lord, to live a life pleasing to you. Lead me by your words and guide me by your Spirit. I pray in Jesus’ name, Amen.*