

## WALKING TO PLEASE GOD

Today people seem to walk for their favorite causes whether social, political, health, disease, even religious causes like pro-life or the Ten Commandments monument.

Paul instructed and exhorted the Thessalonian believers to WALK TO PLEASE GOD – “Finally then, my brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that *you received from us instructions* as to HOW you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you may excel still more.” (4:1)

As you study the following five points of this lesson, write the things that made a point to you at the bottom of the page entitled:

### WHAT ARE YOU LEARNING ABOUT WALKING TO PLEASE GOD.

Paul says that his INSTRUCTION came by the authority of the Lord Jesus (4:2). He further explains that instruction on how to walk to please God amounted to *commandments (paraggelia / special precepts or rules for living / mechanics)* from the Lord Jesus and involved the will of God. **Paul gave the mechanical side to the word of God regarding daily practical social living.**

The commandments addressed in our passage involve **the sanctification (ho hagiasmos) work of the Holy Spirit regarding the believer's body** (note that the word sanctification is used three times in our passage (4:3,4,7-8).

Three commandments (rules for living) are given involving the sanctification work of the indwelling Holy Spirit and the believer's body regarding HOW TO WALK TO PLEASE GOD. [Note that it involves social and dating life!]

- “That you *abstain* (apecho / p.m.infin) from sexual immortality (tes porneia: pornography, pre-marital, homosexuality, lesbianism, bestiality, sodomy, incest, prostitution, and pederasty: Rom.1:24-32)
- “That each of you *know how* (oida/ perf.a.infin/ divine viewpoint) *to possess* (ktaomai/ p.m.infin / FHS / Gal.5:16) his own vessel (to skeuos (2 Cor.4:7 / earthen vessel) in sanctification and honor (2 Tim.2:20-22), not in lustful passion (epithumia pathos / OMCD), *like the Gentiles who do not know God*;
- “And that *no man transgress* (to huperbaino / p.a.infin / to go beyond what is proper / 1 Cor.7:1-2) and *defraud* (pleonekteo / p.a.infin / selfish desire with disregard for the rights or wishes of others / cheat) his brother in the matter (to pragma/ sexual immortality) because the Lord is the avenger (ekdikos / adjudge of justice / Heb.12:5-11) in all these things (sexual immortality among the believers), just as we told you before and *solemnly warned* (diamarturomai / a.m.ind) you.” (4:3-6)

Paul gave a very simple explanation for these commandments of sanctification – “**For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity** (akatharsia/ sexual immortality), **but** (alla / contrast) **in sanctification.**” (4:7)

Paul concluded with a consequential clause for rejecting instruction coming from the authority of the Lord Jesus regarding the will of God: HOW TO WALK TO PLEASE GOD. “**Consequently** (toigaroun / for that very reason then), **he who rejects** (atheteo / p.a.ptc.nsm) this is not rejecting (atheteo / p.a.ind) **man but** (alla / contrast) **the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.**” (4:8)

### WHAT ARE YOU LEARNING ABOUT WALKING TO PLEASE GOD?

(Use the back or sides of the paper to write notes.)