

May 5, 2019

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A God-Pleasing Life, part 2  
I Thessalonians 4:9-12



How does the command given to “walk properly” or “respectably” apply in the various communities you live in? Think about this for each family member in the roles and relationships they have in the neighborhood, at work or school, in the gym, and so on. Why is living respectfully important as it relates to our purpose as believers, to be “on mission” with the message of the gospel?

**For Further Study, Thought, and Discussion:**

1. To reflect on the “examine yourself” command in relationship to participating in communion, go back to 1 Corinthians 11:17-32—
  - What was going on that led Paul to declare their coming together “is not for the better but for the worse”?
  - How is this related to the “greatest commandment” Jesus stated, Matthew 22:34-40?
  - What simple corrective does Paul offer to the Corinthian believers, 11:33-34? What are some other ways you can simply and practically demonstrate love for fellow believers? Are there any corrective actions you need to take?
2. Paul talks about love extended to “all the brothers throughout Macedonia”. In what specific ways can you demonstrate love for fellow believers outside your local church family?
3. There are two sides to the concept of “minding your own business” (4:11)!
  - What does it mean in terms of the way you handle your “business”?

In the Communion ordinance we pause to “examine” ourselves (1 Corinthians 11:28) as to the health of our relationship to Jesus, reflected in our obedience to him. In the context of 1 Corinthians the specific concern involved relationships with fellow believers, supporting the consistent theme of the NT that our relationship to Jesus should impact every other relationship we have.

- I. We are to be PURE, 4:3-8.
  - A. God’s will is that we practice HOLINESS, 3.
  - B. In particular this applies to holy SEXUALITY, 3.
  - C. This requires our personal DISCIPLINE, 4-8.
- II. We are to be LOVING, 4:9-10.
  - A. The first application is to our CHRISTIAN FAMILY, 9.
  - B. We are taught to love beyond our LOCAL CHURCH, 10, see Luke 10:25-37.
  - C. You can LOVE MORE, 10.
- III. We are to be RESPONSIBLE, 4:11-12.
  - A. Holiness is reflected in our BUSINESS and WORK, 11.
  - B. There are two desired OUTCOMES, 12.
    1. RESPECT from others.
    2. SELF-SUPPORT.