

Pursue Holiness > 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

4:1 *Follow our example.* What Paul and those with him taught provides a pattern to be followed. Paul gives two examples...

4:2-8 *Our example of sexual integrity.* Greco-Roman culture did not prize the sort of male-female relations that God said were best. It would be easy for the Thessalonians to be tempted to disregard that part of Paul's message, so he gives it special emphasis, noting that part of the Thessalonians' own example to others would be in their sexual faithfulness.

4:9-12 *Our example of a loving life.* While the Thessalonians had grown much in this area, they could still go deeper in how they lived, worked, and served. This, too, is part of their witness to those outside of the faith.

Background: This chapter marks the turning point from Paul's introduction and encouragements to his teachings about specific things the Thessalonians needed to act on.

The Point: Following Paul's pattern (i.e. being a disciple of Jesus) means pursuing holiness in both our sexuality and in our Christ-like care for others.

Head: God's plans for men and women as well as how we are to act and work provide our testimony to a watching world.

Heart: Believe that God's commands lead to joy. Believe what God says rather than what the world says.

Hands: Where do you get your values of sexuality from – the Bible or the world? How are you being an example to those around you of God's holiness? How can you live and work in a way that shows Christ-like humility and love this week?

Here is how I will apply these truths: _____
