

How, Now, Shall We Live?

Word

Scripture Reference

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Discussion Questions

1. Are you influenced by what you watch on television or the internet? In what way?
2. To be sanctified means to live a life *set apart* for God; in other words, *to live for God*, especially in the area of sexual morality. At the time Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, immorality was a way of life, and pleasure at any cost was the philosophy of the day. It looks like things have not changed much over 2000 years. Every day we are bombarded with messages urging us to “live it up, satisfy your desires, give in to your wants, and do it your way.” Discuss how this is true in the environment you live or work in. How do you usually respond when you see these kinds of suggestive messages?
3. God’s plan, His will for His people is for them to be sanctified, to live a life set apart for Him. For the Christian—a child of God, living a life set apart for God is not a multiple choice question. The Bible compares the Christian life to walking. Like the physical act of walking, spiritual walking requires effort, strength, and much patience. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12. Paul gave us three descriptions on how the Christian should walk in the world.
 - a. To be sanctified means the believer should **walk in holiness (v. 2-8)**. To understand what it means for us to be holy we need to ask, “To Whom do I belong?” and “What is my purpose?” To live in holiness means to follow God’s instruction manual for life. It is His will that we walk in relationship with Him, a relationship that is growing and developing each day. How is the believer’s sexual conduct to be different from that of the non-believers (v. 4-5)? When a person rejects God’s instructions, what are they rejecting (v. 8)?

Discuss how God’s commands protect you so that you don’t lose your joy as a Christian?

- b. To be sanctified means to **walk in harmony (v. 9-10)**. A holy walk begins with a right relationship with God, then this relationship finds its application in our relationships with others in the body of Christ. In other words, the more we live like God, the more we will love one another. How are the Christians in Thessalonica described (v. 9-10)? How can you tell that Christians love one another in your church? How can you show your Christian love to a person who is difficult to love? Would it be possible to be in a harmonious relationship without love? What would happen if Christians love one another (John 13:35)?
- c. To be sanctified means we should **walk in honesty (v. 11-12)**. These verses mean that your daily “proper, decent, honest” daily life may win the respect of those outside of Christian fellowship. Being a person of integrity means doing what is right in the eyes of God and man, especially in the eyes of unbelievers. Would your non-Christian neighbours be impressed that you are in the church every Sunday, knowing that you are not a person of integrity? Discuss how your work and life could speak volumes about your love for God.

Walk

“In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

Your workplace/school and home habits reflect greatly on your personal life. Actions speak louder than words. In fact, your actions bear out your words, either proving your integrity or exposing your hypocrisy. Examine your life. Ask yourself if you are a man or woman of integrity, thereby reflecting God’s holiness in your life.

Worship & Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for enlightening me on how I should live as Your child, that my walk with You should be in holiness, harmony, and honesty. A tall order, indeed, but this is possible with Your help. Help me to live according to Your commands, loving my fellow Christians and living with integrity among the non-Christians. In Jesus’ name. Amen.