

# ANTICIPATE!

LOOKING FORWARD TO CHRIST'S RETURN A STUDY THROUGH 1 THESSALONIANS

## #5 While You're Waiting...

**1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 (NIV)** *As for other matters, brothers and sisters, 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. <sup>2</sup>For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. <sup>3</sup>It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; <sup>4</sup>that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, <sup>5</sup>not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; <sup>6</sup>and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. <sup>7</sup>For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. <sup>8</sup>Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit. <sup>9</sup>Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. <sup>10</sup>And in fact, you do love all of God's family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more, <sup>11</sup>and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, <sup>12</sup>so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.*

### **3 Ways To Live Your Life To Please God**

***(While You're Waiting On Jesus To Come Back):***

1. By living obedient to God **WHEN IT COMES TO SEX** (vs 3-8)

#### **Let's Talk about Sex (God's Ways):**

- A. Sex is God's gift to be only between a **MAN** and a **WOMAN** within the context of a **COMMITTED MARRIAGE** and nowhere else.
- B. It's clear the **sexual mores** of **OUR CULTURE** are **very different!**
- C. In this and every other area, God's commands are always for **GOD'S GLORY AND OUR GOOD!**

- D. Don't be fooled into thinking it is our culture that discovered **SEXUAL LIBERATION**.

- E. Reminder - true God-lovers who strive to live a life that pleases God can't treat God's teaching like a **BUFFET**.

**2 Corinthians 2:8-9** *I urge you, therefore, to reaffirm your love for him. <sup>9</sup>Another reason I wrote you was to see if you would stand the test and be obedient in everything.*

**1 Corinthians 6:12-20** *"I have the right to do anything," you say--but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"--but I will not be mastered by anything. <sup>13</sup>You say, "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both." The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. <sup>14</sup>By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. <sup>15</sup>Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! <sup>16</sup>Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." <sup>17</sup>But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit. <sup>18</sup>Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. <sup>19</sup>Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; <sup>20</sup>you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies ...*

- F. *Just in case you're thinking* — These standards are all good, BUT it's too late for me. Know that God always deals with us in the **PRESENT TENSE**.

2. By how we **LOVE** others. (vs 9-10)

3. Being respect-worthy people who take responsibility for **OURSELVES** and stay out of things that **AREN'T OUR BUSINESS**. (vs 11-12)