

# Practical Steps to Holy Living

1 Thessalonians 4:9 – 12

## I. Intro

- A. Thank the Lord for moms; thankful for my own godly mother; today, continue to talk about holy living – thankful my mom was a great example of that, thankful my wife great example
- B. Many moms here today who have been great examples of holy living that God expects from all who profess Jesus as Lord and Savior
- C. **Question from last week:** What does holy living look like? Ans: Looks like Jesus
- D. Jesus gave us two commandments to follow in order to live holy lives: *Love the Lord your God ... and Love your neighbor ...*
- E. Holy living is also about living everyday to please God; should be our everyday top priority; we should be ambitious as followers of Christ to please God
- F. Today, 4 practical steps for pleasing God and holy living
- G. **READ 1 Thessalonians 4:9 – 12**

## II. **Step 1 – Grow in Love**

- A. (**v. 10**) Paul says that the Thessalonians were doing this – the love they showed for God and for others was even known all throughout the region; Paul tells them to continue to do this *more and more*
- B. Four Greek words for love – *agape, phileo, eros, storge*; word used here is *phileo* – special kind of love between special friends
  - i. Love that is a special strong bond between two people
  - ii. Love of deep affection for another
  - iii. Love that strives to nurture and encourage
  - iv. Love that is concerned for the welfare of another
- C. **Question:** Why is this important – to continue to love others *more and more*? 2 reasons
  - i. **1** – God teaches us to do so, God actually commands us to do so; absolute essential for the church of God
    - a) We believers need each other to make it through this life; we face a spiritual battle everyday; we live in a corrupt/sinful world; need each other's love in order to stand against these forces of evil and against the schemes of the devil
  - ii. **2** – If there was ever a time when growing in love more and more for one another is needed it's today; needed in families/homes, needed in community/neighborhoods, needed in church; people need to know the *overwhelming, neverending, restless love of God* and it's through the body of believers that this love is shown and made known

**D. There can never be too much brotherly love in the church and in the world**

### **III. Step 2 – Live Quietly**

**A. (v. 11) ESV – uses word *aspire*; other translations use word *study*; Greek word means *be eager***

**B. Being quiet doesn't mean we walk around mute; means not to be troublemakers**

**C. Remember, church in Thessalonica facing two critical problems: persecution, and criticism and divisiveness from outside**

**D. Fellow workers, neighbors, and public at large were ridiculing, mocking, even abusing these new believers because of their turning to faith in Christ**

**E. Jesus' instructions when His followers face persecution/ridicule; Matthew 10:14 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup>And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town.

**F. Lord's teaching on how to handle abuse/being mistreated is to leave quietly, not to stir up controversy/anger or further promote animosity**

**G. Matthew 5:39–40 (ESV)**

<sup>39</sup>But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.

<sup>40</sup>And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well.

**H. Also, there was this criticism and divisiveness being propagated against Paul; accusing Paul of everything from immoral conduct to deceitful and self-glorifying preaching; their leader who was being attacked**

**I. Believers that are hurting need to be heard; only way to hear is to be quiet and listen**

**J. World is hurting and needs to be heard; only way to hear is to be quiet and listen so that we can minister to the world**

**K. Believers must live quiet lives so that we can be sensitive to the needs of other believers, and those who are unbelievers; we can't be people that are continually critical and divisive, stirring up controversy and dissension**

**L. Proverbs 17:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup>Better is a dry morsel (**stale piece of bread**) with quiet than a house full of feasting (**filet mignon, baked potato, butter, sour cream, chives, salad, buttery rolls**) with strife.

### **IV. Step 3 – Mind Your Own Business (v. 11)**

**A. Question: Can you believe this is in the Bible? Whenever you say this to someone you can tell them you're just quoting scripture**

**B. Question: Why are some people “busybodies”?**

- i. **1** – they’re just critical by nature; it’s all they know
- ii. **2** – they can’t see their own shortcomings/faults; too concerned about *the splinter in another person’s eye* but oblivious to the 2x4 in their own eye
- iii. **3** – they don’t have anything else to do; too much time on their hands

**C. 3 answers for busybodiness:**

- i. **1** – Commit your life to Christ; completely surrender your life to Him and repent of your meddling, nosiness
- ii. **2** - Commit to the mission of Christ; just like we’ve talked about – grow in love for God and others more and more
- iii. **3** – Fill your time with the things of Christ and His kingdom; work/serve Him so there’s no time left for meddling in other people’s affairs

**D. 1 Peter 4:15–16 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup>But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or **as a meddler. [busybody]**

<sup>16</sup>Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

**V. Step 4 – Work; Earn Your Own Way**

**A. We earn our own way so that we are respected by others, especially unbelievers – (v. 12) *walk properly before outsiders***

**B. One of the very purposes man was put on the earth was to work; Genesis 2:15 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup>The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

**C. We don’t work just for our own benefit, we work to share with others – those who can’t work for themselves**

**D. God has no patience with lazy people; we all have been put in this world to contribute and assist with the needs of those less fortunate and for each other**

**E. Reminder of this commandment: Exodus 20:8–10 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup>“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

<sup>9</sup>Six days you shall labor, and do all your work,

<sup>10</sup>but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates.

**VI. Close**

- A. If we're serious about living our lives in order to please God, to be holy as He is holy, then let's**
- i. Grow in love more and more**
  - ii. Live quiet lives – not be contentious and critical**
  - iii. Mind our own business – not be busybodies or meddlers**
  - iv. Work – all to the honor and glory of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ**