

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

- Motives

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Two principal instructions. Each section contains a similar pattern

- reminder of a previously given instruction,
- reassurance of their obedience in this matter and then
- exhortation to even greater progress.

1. Please God with your sexual purity (1-8)

^{4:1} 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. ² For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

³ It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; ⁴ that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honourable, ⁵ not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; ⁶ 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. ⁷ For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. ⁸ Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.

At a marriage service, the Minister may say these words

First, marriage was established for the mutual companionship, help, and comfort that husband and wife should provide for one another both in prosperity and adversity. **Secondly**, it was established in order that the natural instincts and affections, implanted by God, should be hallowed and directed aright.

Thirdly, marriage was established for the procreation of children, who should be brought up in the fear and nurture of the Lord and to the praise of his holy name

2. Please God with your brotherly love (9-12)

⁹Now 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. ¹⁰And 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, ¹¹and 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, ¹²so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

First, 'make it your ambition to lead a quiet life'.

Secondly, 'mind your own business'.

Thirdly, 'work with your hands'.

Conclusion