

Living Lives of Distinction

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.

Matthew 5:13

Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more. **Ephesians 4:19**

Finally, brothers, 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.

1 Thessalonians 4:1

It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality;

1 Thessalonians 4:3

Three specifics in which Paul tells Christians to be distinctive

1. One specific Area of Distinctiveness—S_____ Purity.

not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; **1 Thessalonians 4:5**

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools **Romans 1:18-22**

It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality;

1 Thessalonians 4:3

Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit. **1 Thessalonians 4:8**

“Do not have sexual relations with your neighbor’s wife and defile yourself with her.

“Do not give any of your children to be sacrificed to Molech, for you must not profane the name of your God. I am the Lord.

“Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable.

“Do not have sexual relations with an animal and defile yourself with it. A woman must not present herself to an animal to have sexual relations with it; that is a perversion.

*“Do not defile yourselves in any of these ways, because this is how the nations that I am going to drive out before you became defiled. Even the land was defiled; so I punished it for its sin, and the land vomited out its inhabitants. But you must keep my decrees and my laws. **Leviticus 18:20-26***

*that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, **1 Thessalonians 4:4***

“There is nothing so absurd, but if you _____ it often enough, people will believe it.” —William James, Father of Modern Psychology

*How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?” **Genesis 39:9***

*Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. **Ephesians 5:18***

*for drunkards and gluttons become poor, and drowsiness clothes them in rags. **Proverbs 23:21***

*Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. **Ephesians 4:31-32***

*Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders **1 Corinthians 6:9***

*nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. **1 Corinthians 6:10***

*and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you. **1 Thessalonians 4:6***

He said, "If you listen carefully to the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, who heals you."

Exodus 15:26

*Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. **1 Corinthians 6:9-10***

*And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. **1 Cor. 6:11***

2. An Attitude of Distinctiveness—C_____.

Three specifics in which Paul tells Christians to be distinctive.

*Now about brotherly love we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. **1 Thessalonians 4:9***

*"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. **John 15:18-19***

*As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. **John 15:19***

Emotivism is the view that moral judgments do not function as statements of fact but rather as expressions of the speaker's or writer's feelings.

*This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. **John 3:19***

*By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." **John 13:35***

*But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. **Matthew 5:44-45***

*He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? **Matthew 5:45-46***

*Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. **Romans 12:21***

3. An Arena of Distinctiveness—the W_____.

Three specifics in which Paul tells Christians to be distinctive.

Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.

Mark 16:15

“Our constitution was made only for a moral and religious people.

It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.” —John Adams

***We can’t impress people with the truth
until we’ve earned the right to be heard.***

***The best argument for Christianity is a pure living, brotherly loving,
honest working Christian.***

God is just and He is going to hold us _____.

The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you.

1 Thessalonians 4:6

[God] Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

James 1:17

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

Matthew 24:35

God is love and He wants to _____ you.

*“Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. **Isaiah 1:18***

Key: Sexual, repeat, Compassion, Workplace, accountable, forgive