

All In, All the Time  
1 Thessalonians 4:1  
January 1, 2017

Be All In for the **PLEASURE** of God and a **POWERFUL** testimony.

**1 Thessalonians 4:1-12** — *1 Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. 2 For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus.*

***To be all in for the pleasure of God, you'll need to nurture the new nature!***

***“you know what instructions we gave you”***

***...just as you are doing***

**2 Corinthians 3:18** — *18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*

So, how do we do this? To be all in for the pleasure of God and a powerful testimony, that will demand that we...

1. Live a **PURE LIFE**. 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

**3** *For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, 5 not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; 6 that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. 7 For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. 8 Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.*

All of God's Word contains God's will—both positively in what we are supposed to do and negatively in what we are not supposed to do.

God's will includes:

salvation (1 Tim. 2:4),  
self-sacrifice (Rom. 12:1, 2),  
Spirit filling (Eph. 5:18),  
submission (1 Pet. 2:13-15),  
suffering (1 Pet. 3:17),  
satisfaction (5:18),  
settledness (Heb. 10:36),  
and here in this passage—sanctification,

**First**, Don't let your body control you (v.4).

**Second**, don't live like the lost (v.5).

**Third**, don't take advantage of others (v.6).

So why should we choose to live pure lives in a world that cares so little about that? Paul gives three reasons...

**First**, the Lord's vengeance (v.6 *"because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you."*)

**Second**, the Lord's purpose (v.7 *For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness.*)

**Third**, the Lord's Holy Spirit (v.8 *Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.*) |

2. Live the **PRIORITY OF LOVE**. 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

**9** Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, **10** for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, **11** and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, **12** so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.

**1 Peter 1:22 — 22** Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart,

Be All In for the **PLEASURE** of God and a **POWERFUL** testimony...because Jesus is coming!

**1 Thessalonians 4:16 — 16** For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

Christian:

Pursue a life that results in the pleasure of God and a powerful witness to others.

Reflect the character of God by directing the desires of your body in ways that honor God, that don't reflect the lives of the lost and that don't take advantage of others.

Pursue the priority of love for others so God can use you to make a powerful testimony in their lives.

Our Church:

Let's be clear on what it means to live a life for the pleasure of God.

Together, let's pursue spiritual excellence by living pure lives and the priority of love.

Let's be all in all the time this year!

Let's talk about being all in...

1. What authority did Paul have to tell the Thessalonian believers to follow the instructions he had given them (v.1)?
2. How do you learn how to live a life that pleases God (v.1)?
3. From what Paul wrote in v.1, what do you know about the believers in Thessalonica?
4. What is God's will for you and how do you know that (v.3)?
5. How can a person "abstain from sexual immorality" (v.4-6)?
6. What kind of life has God called us to live (v.7)?
7. Why is it so important that we listen to the instructions that Paul gave about abstaining from sexual immorality (v.8)?
8. How has God taught you to love one another (v.9)?
9. Why do we need to be told to grow in our love for others (v.10)?
10. What would it look like for you to "aspire to live quietly, mind your own affairs and work with your hands" (v.11)?