

I Thessalonians – Chapter Four

v.1-5, Abstain from fornication; v. 6-8, all sexual relationships in honorable way ; v. 9-12, Love one another; v.13-18, Second Coming

v.1-5 – Paul exhorts in Jesus name how they ought to walk, thus live from day to day. These Gentiles had no moral traditions so he had to teach them. Using Jesus name gave his exhortation authority. That we be sanctified is God’s will, so, first, abstain from fornication. Fornication (porneia) is the general word for all sexual sin, any perversion of God’s moral code concerning sex. Concu pi scence is strong or abnormal desire or appetite, especially sexual desire. We cannot live our lives according to the lust of concupiscence, but according to sanctification (holiness; sexual purity) that God wills for us.

v. 4,5 – Each should know how to possess(this word in new testament means acquire) his vessel (I Pet. 3:7 wife) in sanctification and honor. Sanctity in marriage was a new concept for the Thessalonians. Still, it could also refer to a man or woman’s own body. In the end, each person has the personal responsibility to live a holy life in this regard. If we take the sense of acquiring a spouse then there are four things to consider: In Sanctification –holy; In honor – respect; without lustful passion;

v. 6-8 – Mistreat, take advantage of, defraud someone sexually out of your greed, includes, taking a spouse, adultery, especially with someone else’s spouse, which would defraud them. All is unholy, done by those who do not know God.

v.9-12 – Love your brothers, living a quiet life, taking care of your own affairs, and not in the business of others, while you work with your hands. Live honestly before all men, especially those who are not of the faith, and grow more and more in love.

v.13-18 – Resurrection is our hope, so we do not sorrow as those who have not hope of being resurrected. Those who are alive and remain shall not precede those who are asleep. They shall rise first, then those who remain shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. I Thessalonians 16, 17 is the well known popular account of the rapture. The Lord, himself, comes to get his bride, with a shout, the voice of the arch angel and the trump of God. (Ref. I Corinthians 15:51 -54)