



## Our great aspiration: to please God

**1 Thessalonians 4:1** Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that, as you received from us *instruction* as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you may excel still more.

<sup>2</sup> For you know what commandments we gave you by *the authority of the Lord Jesus*.

Jesus said, "I always do the things that are pleasing to Him." (John 8:29)

Paul said,

"Therefore also we have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him." (2 Corinthians 5:9)

and

<sup>5</sup> For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

<sup>6</sup> Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

<sup>7</sup> Therefore do not be partakers with them;

<sup>8</sup> for you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light

<sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of the light *consists* in all goodness and righteousness and truth),

<sup>10</sup> **trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.**

<sup>11</sup> And do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them (Ephesians 5:5-11)

### **Aspiration 1 purity (or sanctification)**

<sup>3</sup> For this is the will of God, your sanctification; *that is*, that you abstain from sexual immorality;

<sup>4</sup> that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,

<sup>5</sup> not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God;

<sup>6</sup> *and* that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is *the* avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned *you*.

<sup>7</sup> For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification.

<sup>8</sup> Consequently, he who rejects *this* is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.

### **Aspiration 2 love**

<sup>9</sup> Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for *anyone* to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;

<sup>10</sup> for indeed you do practice it toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more,

### **Aspiration 3 industriousness**

<sup>11</sup> and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands, just as we commanded you;

<sup>12</sup> so that you may behave properly toward outsiders and not be in any need.

**Galatians 5:13** For you were called to freedom, brethren; only *do not turn* your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

<sup>14</sup> For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the *statement*, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

<sup>15</sup> But if you bite and devour one another, take care lest you be consumed by one another.

<sup>16</sup> But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

<sup>17</sup> For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

<sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.

<sup>19</sup> Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality,

<sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions,

<sup>21</sup> envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

<sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

<sup>24</sup> Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

<sup>25</sup> If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

<sup>26</sup> Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.

**6:1** Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; *each one* looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted.

<sup>2</sup> Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ.

**1 Corinthians 6:9** Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals,  
<sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

<sup>11</sup> And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.

<sup>12</sup> All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything.

<sup>13</sup> Food is for the stomach, and the stomach is for food; but God will do away with both of them. Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord; and the Lord is for the body.

<sup>14</sup> Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power.

<sup>15</sup> Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? May it never be!

<sup>16</sup> Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a harlot is one body *with her*? For He says, "The two will become one flesh."

<sup>17</sup> But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit *with Him*.

<sup>18</sup> Flee immorality. Every *other* sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.

<sup>19</sup> Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

<sup>20</sup> For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

**7:1** Now concerning the things about which you wrote, it is good for a man not to touch a woman.

<sup>2</sup> But because of immoralities, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband.

<sup>3</sup> Let the husband fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband.

<sup>4</sup> The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband *does*; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife *does*.

<sup>5</sup> Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again lest Satan tempt you because of your lack of self-control.