

**Grace Community Church
Redeemed Ethics
April 26, 2026**

HOME GROUP QUESTIONS

1. **Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-2.** How might a new believer be discouraged after reading these two verses? How would you encourage this person with these two verses? In what ways are you striving to please the Lord more and more? Explain why.
2. **Read 4:3.** Define sanctification. How might a new believer be discouraged after reading this verse? How would you encourage this new believer with this verse?
3. **Read 4:4-5.** How would you answer a new Christian who asks about the footnote found in their bible for verse 4? What Scriptures would you use to show God's design for sex? Name and discuss some differences you personally encounter concerning Christians and non-Christians regarding sex.
4. **Read 4:6-8.** How would you respond to someone who says their sexual sin isn't hurting anyone in the following circumstances: premarital sex, adultery, homosexuality, pornography use? In what ways have you seen the Lord sanctify someone (or yourself) concerning sexuality?
5. **Read 4:9-12.** What would it look like for you to "live quietly"? Paul's focus on loving other Christian brothers and sisters may seem inward-looking. But why is this so important for our witness and evangelism? Can you think of an example of this in your own life?¹ In what ways have you seen the Lord sanctify someone (or yourself) concerning their work ethic?
6. In what ways did 4:1-12 challenge you? In what ways did this passage comfort you?

¹ Ligon Duncan, [1 & 2 Thessalonians for You](#), ed. Carl Laferton, God's Word for You (The Good Book Company, 2023), 103.

SERMON NOTES

Scripture References

- Matthew 3:17 [17] and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”
- John 8:29 [29] And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him.
- 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 [9] Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, [10] nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. [11] And such were some of you. 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.
- Isaiah 57:15
[15] For thus says the One who is high and lifted up,
who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:
“I dwell in the high and holy place,
and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit,
to revive the spirit of the lowly,
and to revive the heart of the contrite.

Quotes

- Sanctification (Logos Bible Study definition) - The ongoing supernatural work of God to rescue justified sinners from the disease of sin and to conform them to the image of his Son: holy, Christlike, and empowered to do good works.
- Πορνεία (porneia) – fornication – sex outside of marriage

- The word which is usually rendered “brotherly love” in the NT is the Greek *philadelphia* and is used only five times (Rom. 12:10; 1 Thess. 4:9; Heb. 13:1; 1 Pet. 1:22; 2 Pet. 1:7).²
- This passage, like 2 Thessalonians 3:6–15, demonstrates that the apostle was opposed to the economic and social dependence that characterized the institution of patronage.³

Sermon Outline

Main point of the text:

Paul instructed the Thessalonians to live to please God, not themselves, in their sexual ethic and work ethic.

Main point of the sermon:

We are to please God and love others in how we control our bodies and work properly.

Title:

Redeemed Ethics

- Please God more and more (1-2)
- Control your body in holiness (3-8)
- Demonstrate love in working properly (9-12)

² W. Thomas Sawyer, [“Brotherly Love,”](#) in *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary*, ed. Chad Brand et al. (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2003), 240.

³ Gene L. Green, [The Letters to the Thessalonians](#), *The Pillar New Testament Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans Pub.; Apollos, 2002), 208.