

God's Call to Sanctification

1 Thess. 4:1-12

12/218, by Philip Pinto @ Village Bible Church (Living in Expectation)

- How does context inform the meaning?
 - a. Historical
 - Paul's purpose
 - i. encourage steadfastness in the midst of pressure to compromise and abandon faith
 - ii. Defend Paul against accusations of self-serving motives (charlatan)
 - b. Literary context (passages surrounding)
 - i. Turning point in the letter:
 - change from _____ to *steadfastness* to _____ for *growth*.
 - ii. Grammatical cue
 - "Finally" (v. 1, ESV)
 - "Furthermore" (v. 1, KJV)
remaining, the rest; for the rest, besides, moreover
 - iii. Passages around
 - **4:1-12** How faith and love are lived out
 - **4:13-18, 5:1-11** Explaining details of the coming of the Lord (*Parousia*)
 - **5:12-28** How faith and love are lived out
- What is the structure of the passage?
 - I. " _____ " Why you need more instructions. (v. 1-2)
 - II. _____ (faith in action) (v. 3-8)
 - Defined: sanctification = αἱγιασμοῦ, Hagiasmos
 - consecration or purification; relates to ultimate effect on the heart and life
 - This is _____ in that it is brought about by God's activity in the believer's life that is submitted to Him.
 - A. Abstention from _____ immorality
 - a. Control your _____ (v. 4)

- b. _____ “if it feels good, do it” mantra. (v. 5)
- B. Fairness in _____ (v. 6)
- a. Buying and selling of _____
- b. Strong _____ ethic
- C. Why **faith** in action is important (v. 7-8)
- a. God has not called us to “i _____”
- i. “in a moral sense: the impurity of lustful, luxurious, [extravagant, wasteful] living; of impure motives”
- b. God has called us to _____.
- i. “Holiness” is *Hagiasmos*, (sanctification) from v. 3
- c. Disregarding these instructions disregards **God** not man (v. 8)

III. Brotherly _____ (love in action) (v. 9-12)

- A. Why this is important (v.9)
- a. No need to be _____ it by anyone else
- b. _____ taught it to them [directly]
- B. Do it _____ and _____
- C. Be _____ in personal affairs (v.11)
- a. Don't stir up conflict
- b. Don't be “busybodies”
- c. Work to provide your own needs, not depend on others
- D. Maintain a good _____ with unbelievers (v. 12)
- a. Glorifies our _____
- b. _____ unbelievers to salvation

- What does this structure reveal about the author's emphasis?
- Some of the world's ways (sexual & business) influenced Christian behavior this needed to be corrected
 - Brotherly love was important and done well, but there is always room for more
- The author's main idea for *his audience*
- God's will and, indeed, God's call is that believers be _____

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- How does context inform the meaning?
 - c. Historical
 - Paul's purpose
 - iii. encourage steadfastness in the midst of pressure to compromise and abandon faith
 - iv. Defend Paul against accusations of self-serving motives (charlatan)
 - d. Literary context (passages surrounding)
 - iii. Turning point in the letter:
 - change from encouragement to *steadfastness* to exhortation for *growth*.
 - iv. Grammatical cue
 - "Finally" (v. 1, ESV)
 - "Furthermore" (v. 1, KJV)
remaining, the rest (a) hereafter, for the future, henceforth (b) at last, already (c) for the rest, besides, moreover
 - iv. Passages around
 - **4:1-12** How faith and love are lived out
 - **4:13-18, 5:1-11** Explaining details of the coming of the Lord (*Parousia*)
 - **5:12-28** How faith and love are lived out
- What is the structure of the passage?
 - I. "Furthermore." Why you need more instructions. (v. 1-2)
 - II. Sanctification (faith in action) (v. 3-8)
 - Defined: sanctification = αἱγιασμοῦ, Hagiasmos
 - consecration or purification; relates to ultimate effect on the heart and life
 - This is passive in that it is brought about by God's activity in the believer's life that is submitted to Him.
- D. Abstention from sexual immorality

- a. Control your **body** (v. 4)
- b. **Don't follow** the "if it feels good, do it" mantra. (v. 5)
- E. Fairness in **business** (v. 6)
 - a. Buying and selling of **property**
 - b. Strong **work** ethic
- F. Why **faith** in action is important (v. 7-8)
 - a. God has not called us to "**impurity**"
 - i. "in a moral sense: the impurity of lustful, luxurious, [extravagant, wasteful] living; of impure motives"
 - b. God has called us to **holiness**.
 - i. "Holiness" is *Hagiasmos*, (sanctification) from v. 3
 - c. Disregarding these instructions disregards **God** not man (v. 8)

III. Brotherly **love** (love in action) (v. 9-12)

- E. Why this is important (v.9)
 - a. No need to be **told** it by anyone else
 - b. **God** taught it to them [directly]
- F. Do it **more** and **more**
- G. Be **diligent** in personal affairs (v.11)
 - a. Don't stir up conflict
 - b. Don't be "busybodies"
 - c. Work to provide your own needs, not depend on others
- H. Maintain a good **reputation** with unbelievers (v. 12)
 - a. **Glorifies our Savior**
 - b. **Draws unbelievers to salvation**
- What does this structure reveal about the author's emphasis?
 - Some of the world's ways (sexual & business) influenced Christian behavior this needed to be corrected
 - Brotherly love was important and done well, but there is always room for more
- The author's main idea for *his audience*
 - God's will and, indeed, God's call is that believers be **sanctified**