

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching out to leaders who can change the world.

1st Thessalonians

Feb 2017

Model for Ministry: *Living to Please God*

INTRODUCTION

What do people mean by the phrase "a victimless crime?"

EXPLORATION

Read 1 Thessalonians 4: 1-8

Note: Fornication was not seen as a sin by the heathens. Acts 15:20 Sanctification is the process of becoming more holy, the person that you become as you allow the Holy Spirit to work. 2 Cor 3:18

1. What is the underlying principle behind Paul's injunction in v. 1? **Heb 6:12**
2. We'll never be perfect this side of heaven. What is the value of striving for spiritual excellence?
3. From Paul's emphasis on sexual purity, what can we reasonably deduce about the lifestyle in Thessalonica? Who is hurt by sexual sin? **Heb 13:4; 1 Cor 3:12-15; 2 Cor 5:10**
4. When people ignore or reject God's instruction on sexual behavior, who are they rejecting? Vs 8
5. What similarities do you see between the lifestyle of the Thessalonians and people today?

Read 1 Thessalonians 4: 9-12

Note: Many people in Thessalonica, when they heard of the Second Coming of Christ, had given up daily work and were standing about in excited groups, upsetting themselves and everyone else while they waited for the Second Coming.

1. What should Christians do about being considered a "fanatic"?
2. What three things does Paul urge the Thessalonians to do?
3. What is a "holy" life? **Lev 20:24-26**
4. What influence on people and society can a hardworking, quiet person have?
5. What does it take to accomplish the goal of v. 12? **Gal 2:20** How might it be overdone?

APPLICATION

- How will you respond to someone who says that they can be a "good" Christian and be (by Biblical standards) sexually immoral? **Heb 13:4**
- How does your work ethic in the office affect your witness? How do you justify an hour of discipleship? What message are you communicating to those around you? **Matt 5:16; 1 Pet 2:12**

A man can lack integrity and character and appear to be a success in law, business, and government. However, in the ministry a lack or decline of integrity and morality ends up in ultimate failure.

Chuck Swindoll

Christ is either Lord of all, or He is not Lord at all. We are not only to renounce evil, but to manifest the truth. We tell people the world is vain; let our lives manifest that it is so. We tell them that our home is above and that all these things are transitory. Does our dwelling look like it? O to live consistent lives!

James Hudson Taylor (1832-1905) (English missionary to China)