

**Sermon Title: The Picture Of A Consistent Sanctification**

**Sermon Text: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-3a**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to fulfill with passion a consistent, progressive, aggressive sanctification.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 4 key aspects of a consistent sanctification in the believer's life.**

**Introduction:** These next two chapters deal with what is lacking in believers faith. Paul instructs believers on how to live in order to please God. This section provides all believers practical instructions for proper behavior in view of truth. Also the necessity for growth that is aggressively progressive in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**I. The method of abounding sanctification. V.1**

- A. The method includes the necessity of justification. V.1a  
“Adelphoi” is related to family relationships of brotherhood and sisterhood. “To build up what is lacking in your faith” is the focus. **(3:10)**
- B. The method includes the necessity of urging. V.1b  
The Greek word “erotao” is a verb meaning to ask. Pastor’s must consistently make request, with gentle, humble attitudes among equals.
- C. The method includes the necessity of exhortation. V.1c  
Similarly “parakaloumen” means “to come alongside.” The desire is to help in their spiritual growth.

**II. The metrics of abounding sanctification. V.1d**

- A. The authority of the metrics of abounding sanctification.  
Paul is not asking or expecting anything of them, other than what the Lord Jesus Christ expects of them.  
**2 Thessalonians 3:12** Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread.  
  
This adds even more authority to his exhortation by urging and exhorting them in the Lord Jesus Christ. The attitude of Paul is one of grace and consideration, with just enough urgency to not be content.
- B. The attitude of the metrics of abounding sanctification.  
The word excel or abound “perisseuete” means “to abound, to be overflowing.”  
**(Philippians 3:10-16; Ephesians 1:15-21)**
- C. The aptitude of the metrics of abounding sanctification.  
The verb above is followed by “mallon,” which means abound “to a greater degree” which highlights how dramatic the believers progress should strive to be, in living in such a way as to please God.  
The goal of these instructions were not intended to move us to obedience, but to do more of the same obedience and growth, that they are already manifesting. The way they are living is to give way to an ever increasing excellence of living in their moral and civil conduct.  
**(1 Thessalonians 1:4; 4:10)**

**John 15:1-5** "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. **2** "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. **3** "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. **4** "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. **5** "I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

**John 15:8-11** "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. **9** "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. **10** "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. **11** "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and *that* your joy may be full.

### III. The mindset of abounding sanctification. V.1e

#### A. The mindset of a sanctifying allegiance.

In the introduction of Chapter 1 they are reminded about the knowledge they already have concerning the instructions of the Lord. (**1 Thessalonians 4:2, 9; 5:1-2**)

#### B. The mindset of a sanctifying walk.

Those who have experienced a genuine conversion change. (**1 Thessalonians 1:9-10**)

##### 1. The call of salvation by God. (**1 Thessalonians 2:13**)

**2 Thessalonians 2:14** to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

##### 2. The call of moral living and teaching.

##### 3. The call of God's Word for holy conduct. (**1 Thessalonians 2:12; 4:12**)

**2 Thessalonians 3:6** But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.

**2 Thessalonians 3:11** For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies.

#### C. The mindset of a sanctifying objective.

This does not mean anything so mundane as "being pleasant to the Lord," but rather points to serving Him and living before Him in such a way that demonstrates, His interests are a person's primary ambition.

(**Matthew 6:33; Moses, Joseph, Paul**)

A slave who renders true service will seek to "please" his master.

**Galatians 1:10** For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.

Since Christians are those who live to serve Christ are His slaves (**1:9**), the norm of their lives here on earth are therefore, establish and govern by His Word and what "pleases" Him and not by what society considers acceptable.

#### IV. The means of abounding sanctification. V.2

- A. Believers need consistent reminders and repetition of previous instructions. V.2a  
The instructions we receive from the Word of God were not mere guidelines that could be ignored, but more precisely “commands” or “orders.”  
**Acts 5:28** saying, "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!"  
**Acts 16:24** Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.  
**1 Timothy 1:5** Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, *from* a good conscience, and *from* sincere faith,  
**1 Timothy 1:18** This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, (1Ti 1:18 NKJ)
- B. Believers need to realize the true source of biblical instructions. V.2b  
(Revelation of Jesus Christ)
- C. Believers need to submit to the true authority of biblical instructions. V.2c  
(Jesus Christ as foundation)
- D. Believers need to surrender to the will of God for biblical instructions. V.3 (Sanctification)  
It is clearly God’s will that His people be holy (hagiasmos) (**1 Thessalonians 3:13**) This can mean a state of being set apart from sin to God, or the process of becoming progressively and aggressively more dedicated to God.