

Holiness: Why bother with it?

Freedom from the Law of Moses does not free us from the mandate of holiness

- 1Th 4:1 Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.
- 1Th 4:2 For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus.
- 1Th 4:3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:
- 1Th 4:4 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;
- 1Th 4:5 Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:
- 1Th 4:6 That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.
- 1Th 4:7 For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.
- 1Th 4:8 He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.

Paul

1. Taught the Thessalonians how to walk (live) so as to please God, and that they would grow in this. 1.1
2. Had given the Thessalonians commands; commands that came through Jesus Christ. 1.2
3. Separation from sin is the will of God. 1.3-6
4. Because we have been called to holiness, not impurity. 1.7

The NT provides a variety of motivations about our holiness

1. Our holiness is our influence in this world. Matthew 5.13
2. Unholiness brings the discipline of God. I Cor. 10: 1-6
3. We can't be like Jesus without being holy. I Peter 1.15-16
4. The pursuit of holiness is an essential part of Christian growth. II Peter 1.5-8
5. Actively pursuing holiness helps provide assurance of salvation. II Peter 1.10/II Peter 3.11-14

6. It is the right response of a grateful heart. I John 4.11
7. Obedience is the greatest evidence of love for God. John 14.15
8. We will answer for how we live. II Cor. 5.10; I Timothy 1.5