

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

I Thessalonians 4:1-8

Ice Breaker: How have you processed the events of last week in our nation's Capital?

Ice Breaker: Read John 18:36 & I Tim. 2:1-2. How should these passages influence the way we should respond to the events of last week?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. **Context:** What happened in the immediate context of this passage? What do we know about the church in Thessalonica and the culture they lived in?
2. What is the difference between God's revealed will for your life and His hidden providential will? What is God's revealed will for the life believers found in this passage?
3. What do the terms sanctification and holiness mean? What immediately comes to mind when you think of the term holy? Is there person (on earth) you think of as holy? Why makes you say that?
4. What specific way does God call the church in Thessalonica to be holy? Why do you think Paul highlights this area of life?
5. What did the culture of Paul's time view human sexuality? How does our current culture view sexual appetites?
6. Why does Paul call them to control their body and abstain from the passions of their flesh? Is Paul denying them a fundamental human right? Why or why not?
7. How does sexual sin effect not just hurt the individual who commits the sin but the whole body of Christ?
8. What motivations do we find in this text to keep ourselves holy?
9. How does the Spirit help us fight the sin in our hearts?
10. Consider breaking up your small group into men and women and discussing how you can help one another fight for sexual purity in each other's lives. Do not make this a onetime thing but commit to caring for one another with whatever the Holy Spirit leads you to share. Consider reaching out to a pastor/elder if you need help fighting this sin.