

(Bible used = NIV 1984 translation)

Way in: Discuss – “Being holy means being boring”!

Read 1 Thessalonians 4: 1 - 12

Question 1. Verse 1: Paul states that the Thessalonians are already ‘living to please God’, yet he urges them to ‘do this more and more’. What do you think he means?

- a. Is this a process of eliminating more and more sin from our lives?
- b. Is it a process of increasing the good things we do that are pleasing to God?

Question 2. Verse 3 – ‘It is God’s will that you be sanctified’

- a. What does he mean by ‘sanctified’?
- b. Is sanctification a one-off process or an ongoing process, or both?

Question 3. Verses 3-8. “Even today, at the beginning of the 21st century, the churches standard attitude to sex is to pretend that it doesn’t exist”.

- a. Do you think this statement is true?
- b. Should the church provide teaching on sexual behaviour? If so, should this be within a service or in some other way?

Question 4. If you knew that sexual misconduct was going on in our church,

- a. what would you do about it?
- b. What should our attitude be to sexual immorality (as defined by Christian teaching) within the wider community?
- c. Is the ‘mind your own business’ in verse 11 to be applied in matters of sexual conduct?

Question 5. Is there any difference between the Christian brotherly love which Paul speaks about (verse 9) and the average person’s kindness and good will?

- a. Do you think Christians in general are more loving than their non-Christin neighbours?
- b. Would you say that there is plenty of brotherly love within our church? How can we encourage growth in this?