



Week 4: The Fight for Holiness

Opening

- Begin with a brief **welcome and prayer** to set the tone for the group time.
- **Introduce the theme:** We all carry desires for what we want in life — from family goals to career dreams. But Paul reminds us in 1 Thessalonians 4:1–8 that the question isn’t just “*What do I want?*” but “*What does God want for me?*” The answer may surprise us: God’s will is our holiness. Holiness isn’t about restriction, but about freedom — living set apart for Him in a way that shapes our relationships, our families, and our witness as a family of families.

Discussion Questions

CONNECT

- In the sermon, Clay addressed the topic of biblical manhood/womanhood. When you hear those words, what comes to mind? What does “man/womanhood” mean to you?
- Before hearing this sermon, how would you have answered the question: “*What does God want for me?*”

DISCOVER

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 together as a group

- Paul says the Thessalonians are already pleasing God, yet he urges them to “do so more and more.” What does this tell us about spiritual growth?
- Verse 3 says plainly: “*This is the will of God, your sanctification.*” How is that different from the way people often talk about finding God’s will?
- Why do you think Paul makes sexual holiness such a central part of God’s will for His people?
- In verses 7–8, Paul connects holiness directly to God’s call and the gift of the Holy Spirit. What encouragement or challenge does that bring?

APPLY

- In what areas of life do you feel it is hardest to live set apart for God? Why?
 - How might holiness actually *protect* and *free* us, rather than restrict us?
 - Paul warns against using others for our own desires (v. 6). What are some subtle ways this can happen in relationships, work, or even in church life?
 - Think about your own manhood or womanhood. How is holiness meant to shape the way you love, serve, and honor others?
-

RESPOND

- God wants holiness for us — but it's not something we drift into. What's one practical initiative you can take this week (strategy, discipline, accountability) to pursue holiness?
- How can our small group help each other grow in this together?

GROUP PRAYER

Take time for prayer requests and celebrations, and then spend time praying for these things specifically:

- **Thanksgiving:** Thank God for revealing His will to us through His Word.
- **Strength:** Ask for strength to resist temptation and for our hearts to treasure Christ over lesser desires.
- **Holiness:** Ask God to make us a family marked by purity, honor, and love.

CLOSING

God's will for us is clear: **our holiness**. Holiness is not about restriction, but about freedom — freedom to love God and serve people in a way that reflects Jesus. As we pursue holiness together, our families and our church family become a witness to the world of what life with God can look like.

REMINDERS AND UPDATES

- This weekend will be the last gathering in Garner, NWC, and Fuquay before they join the Apex and Raleigh campuses. If you attend one of these mobile campuses and need help connecting to Raleigh or Apex, let us know — we'd be happy to assist.
- In our services, we will have a time of celebration and reflection at our mobile campuses, and we will hold prayer sessions at Raleigh and Apex for those joining us the following week.