

Sanctification & Honor

1 Thes. 4:1-8



God's: Fellow Workers

Faith: Stand Firm

Increase & Abound

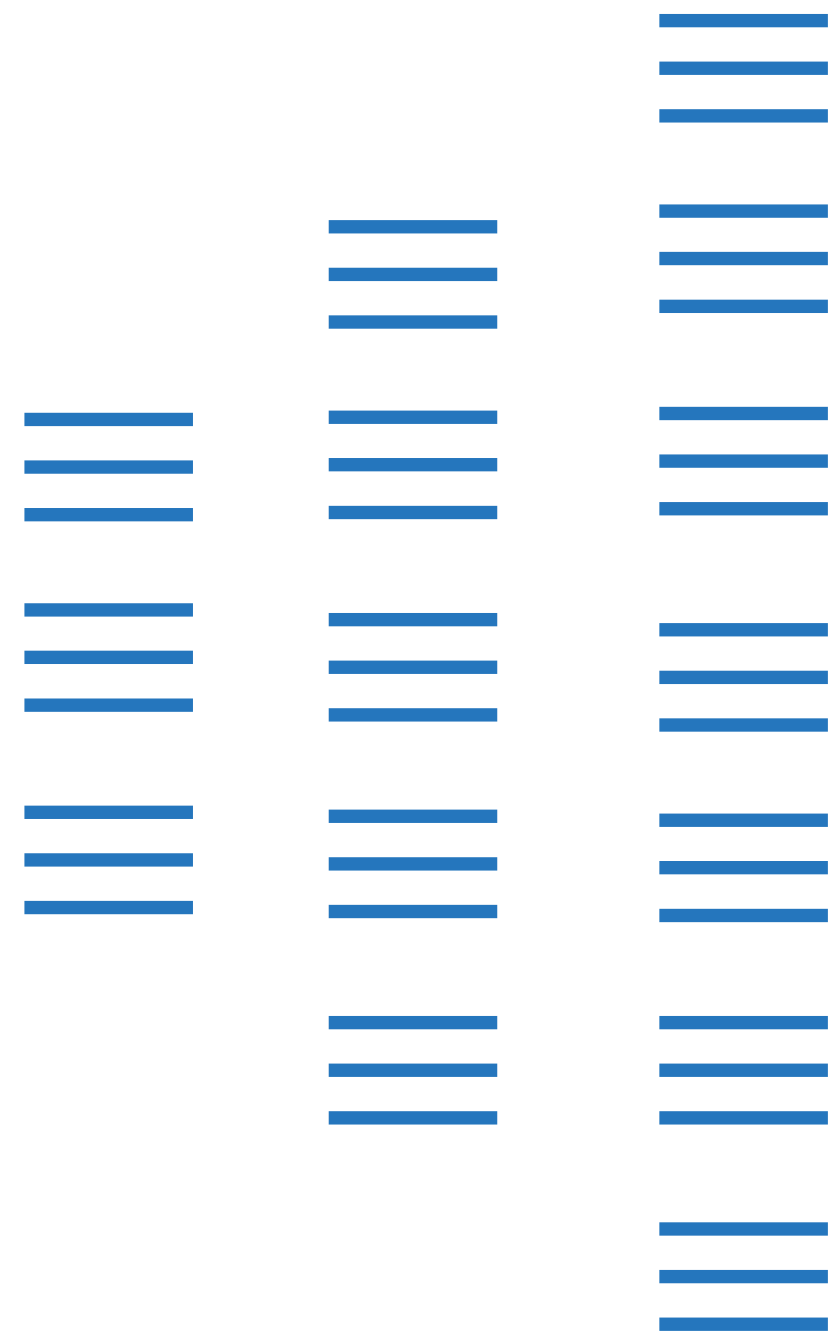
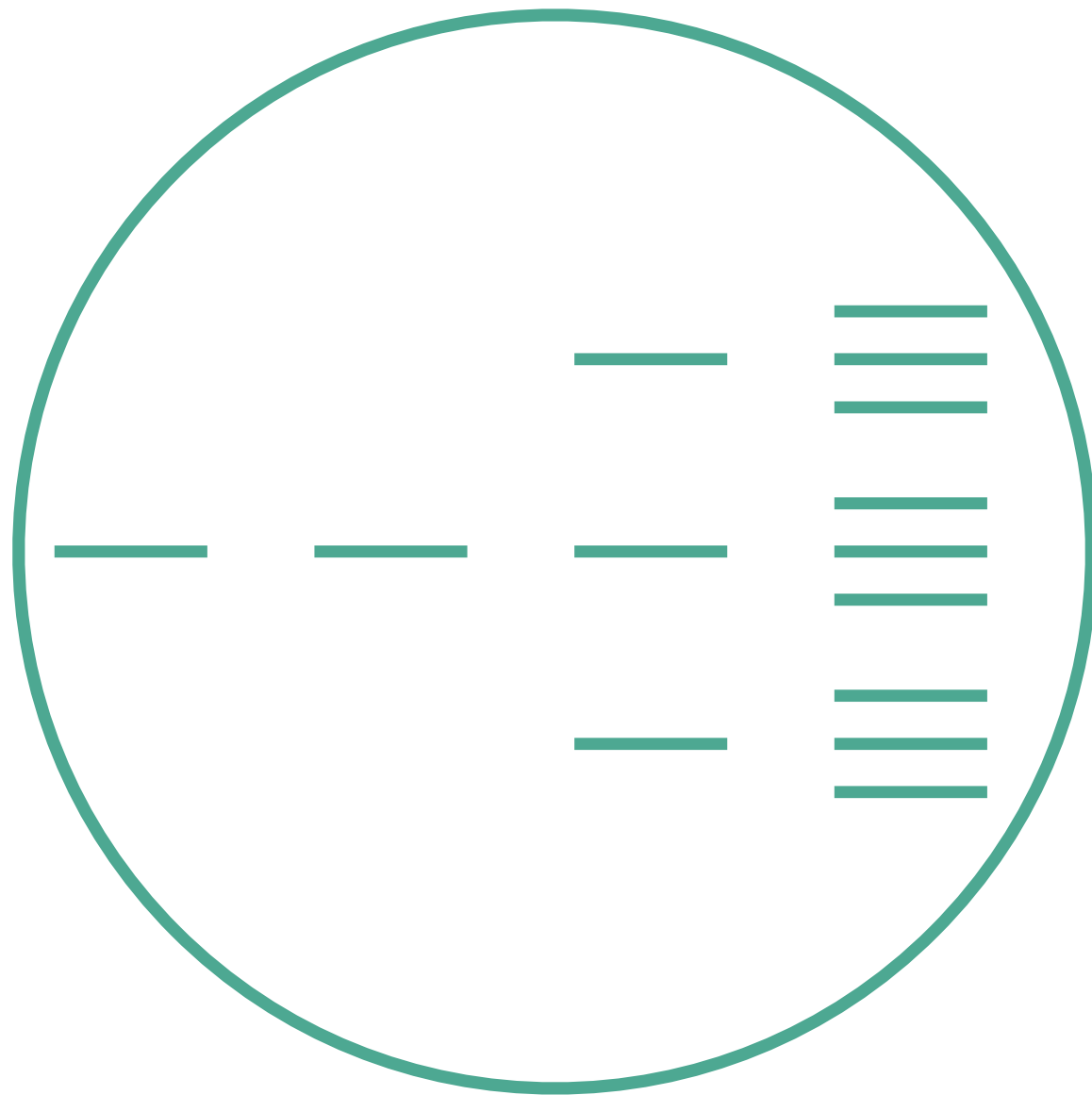
Sanctification & Honor

Authority — Abstain from Sexual Immorality — The Holy Spirit



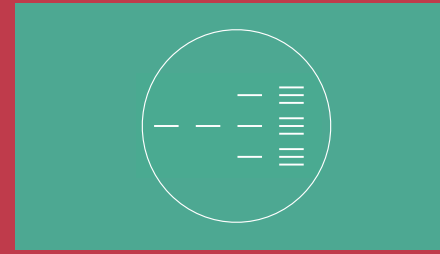
1 Thessalonians **3:11** Now may our God and Father Himself and Jesus our Lord direct our way to you; **12** and may the Lord cause you to **increase and abound in love for one another,** and **for all people,** just as we also do for you; **13** so that He may establish your hearts without blame **in holiness** before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all **His saints.**

Love for
One Another



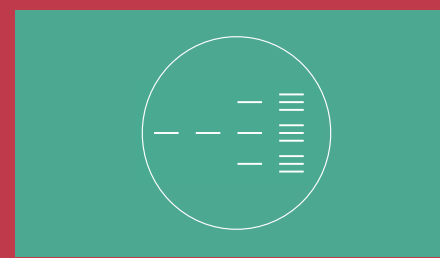
Love for
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Increase & Abound



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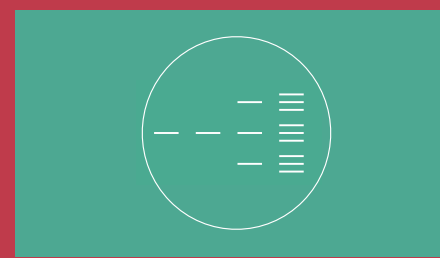
- Holiness comes from God...and leads to character/purpose.
- Saints are God's set apart people...believers, fellow workers, church, brethren beloved by God



1 Thessalonians 4:1 Finally then, **brethren**, we request and **exhort you** in the Lord Jesus, that as you **received** from us instruction as to how you ought to **walk** and **please God** (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more.

2 For you know what **commandments** we gave you by the **authority** of the Lord Jesus.

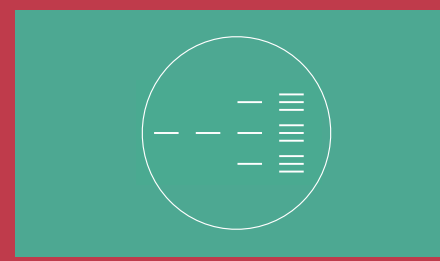
- The Lord Jesus has authority (power), commandments and instruction for His people.
- The Lord Jesus uses people to pass along His authority (power), commandments and instruction to others.



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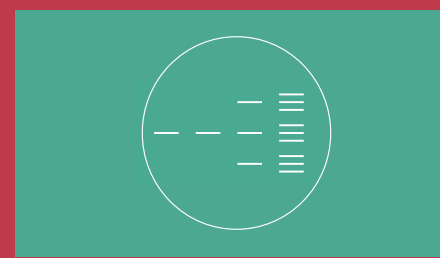
- Brothers and sisters have a common unity “in the Lord Jesus” which comes with a common responsibility.
- We are broken believers learning to trust God and each other in intentional loving relationships.



1 Thessalonians 4:3 For this is **the will of God**, your **sanctification**; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in **sanctification** and **honor**, 5 not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; 6 and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly **warned** you.

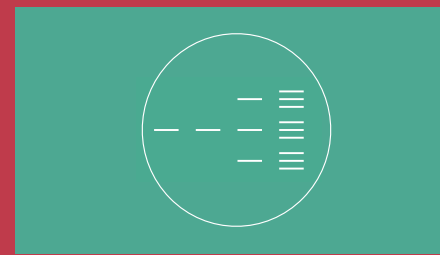
- Sanctification is from God...& leads to character/purpose.
- Know this is His will. Hear the warning.

Sanctification & Honor



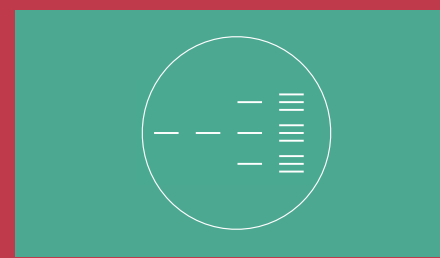
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- Abstaining from sexual immorality & possessing our own vessels is for us and for Him under His authority & power...
- ...is also so that we don't transgress and defraud others.



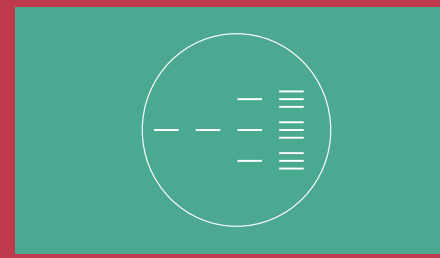
1 Thessalonians 4:7 For **God** has not **called us** for the **purpose** of impurity, but in **sanctification**. 8 So, he who rejects this is not **rejecting** man but the **God** who gives His **Holy Spirit** to you.

- God has called us for His purposes.
- The Holy Spirit works in us & His Word works in us for our sanctification.
- While exhorting one another to trust, walk and please God in sanctification, we reject God's authority if we don't...



Michael Holmes advises...

- For some (married people in particular), following Paul's guidelines may require lowering the level of (or even breaking off, if necessary) an intimate friendship with someone to whom one is improperly attracted.
- In a dating situation it means avoiding behavior or contact that arouses a level of sexual desire inappropriate for the level of relationship.
- For anyone it means avoiding visual or verbal stimulation or input that arouses inappropriate or wrongly focused sexual desires.



Proverbs 27:12

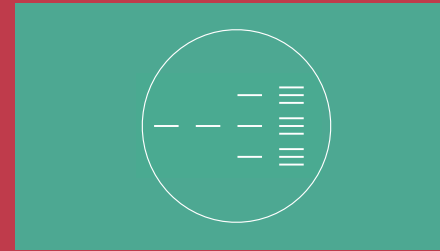
A prudent man sees evil and hides himself,
The naive proceed and pay the penalty.

Galatians 5:16

But I say, walk by the Spirit,
and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to
forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.



Pieces of Practical Application:

Live in and under God's Authority (Power).

Honor God and Honor People.

Have accountability that fosters confession and grace.

Know you can't hide sin from God.

Know the freedom of telling on yourself to God and others.

Have a plan to escape sin when you find yourself planning sin.