WALK IN PURITY
(1 Thessalonians 4:1-8)

I. There is to be an abounding (vs. 1-2).
A. Paul begs them and encourages to abound in pleasing God by following the commandments he had given them.
   1. It is not as if Paul did not think they were living right.
   2. He had already praised them for the growth of their faith.
   3. Paul simply wanted them to continue growing and to not be satisfied with where they were spiritually.

B. Abound literally means to superabound, to be in excess.
   1. Paul wanted them to grow and grow and grow.
   2. There is to be no complacency in the Christian life.

C. They were to do this out of a sense of moral obligation.
   1. This is the idea of the word ought.
   2. It carries the idea of an unavoidable, urgent compulsory necessity.
   3. This was something they just had to do.

D. The reason for the sense of oughtness is that Jesus died for them and they should want to grow for Him.
   1. The same is true for us today.
   2. The Lord has done so much for us that we should want and desire, more than anything, to grow.

E. That which he desired for them to follow were the commands he had given them while with them.
   1. Paul had taught them the truth and they were expected to remember what had been taught.
   2. What he was going to say to them was for the means of refreshing their minds.

F. There should be a great desire on the part of each Christian to grow.
   1. As a Christian we should want to grow.
   2. As we add things to our lives we should want to grow in them as well.
      a. If I'm a preacher I should want to grow as one.
      b. If I'm and elder, I should want to grow as one.
      c. If I'm a bible class teacher, I should want to grow as one.
   3. There is no room for mediocrity or standing pat.

II. There is to be abstinence (vs. 3-5).
A. The first area in which their should be an abounding is in the area of sexual purity.
   1. This is applicable to the single Christian as well as to the married Christian.
   2. This was something unheard of in the Greek world.
   3. Immorality was part and parcel of the Greek lifestyle.

B. However, God’s will is for Christians to be sexually pure.
   1. This also allows one to stay separate from the world.
   2. The world knows nothing about sexual purity and refuses to even
shows its fruits in maintaining one’s health in sexual education classes.

C. God has taught us how to maintain our bodies in His word.
   1. It is a sign of sanctification for one to be sexually pure.
   2. Our bodies were created by God and we are to honor His workmanship by keeping them pure.
   3. The vessel of our body is wonderful and should be maintained as God intended.

D. We are not to give into the lust and impulses of the flesh, which is the meaning of concupiscence.
   1. This is the way that people who don't know God live.
   2. They allow themselves to give into every whim their minds devise.
   3. This leads to a life of misery and sorrow.
   4. You can read the book of Ecclesiastes and see that to which it leads.

III. There is to be no adultery (vs. 6a).
A. No Christian is to commit adultery.
   1. This is the idea of defrauding one’s brother.
   2. Defraud means to overreach, take more that is yours.
   3. Adultery is a terrible sin that destroys trust and souls.

B. The Proverbs writer had much to say about adultery.
   1. 6:32.
   2. 30:20.
   3. 7:24-27.

C. So much is ruined by adultery.
   1. The lives of children and parents.
   2. The friendships that once were dear are now destroyed.

D. Great heartache and difficulties lie ahead for congregations who have members that commit adultery.

IV. There will be an avenging (6b-8).
A. When I fail to abound and abstain, or give in to adultery, God will avenge.

B. This was something that Paul had taught them already.
   1. God is going to punish sin.
   2. Those that find themselves impure morally are going to be judged by God for such.

C. The reason is that God has not called us to be filthy spiritually, but to be holy, separate from the world.

D. Notice verse 8 because it is something we need to entrench in our minds.
   1. When we reject this teaching, we are not rejecting the one who brings the teaching to our attention.
   2. We are rejecting the One who devised the teaching in the first place.

E. You don’t reject the messenger, but the One who sent him with the message.

F. God has given the Holy Spirit to remind us of His call to purity.
   1. Every time we read the Bible the Holy Spirit is reminding us of the
call of God.

2. It must be something of great importance to God to send His Holy Spirit to remind us of it.