1 Thessalonians 4 NKJV 6/21/23

I Thessalonians 4:1
Finally then, **brethren**, we urge and **exhort** in the Lord Jesus that you should **abound** more and more, just as you received from us how you **ought to walk** and **to please God**;
https://my.bible.com/bible/114/1TH.4.1

Brethren = Fellow Christians
Exhort = Strongly encourage
Abound = Be abundant, numerous, thrive, flourish

I Thessalonians 4:2
for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus.
https://my.bible.com/bible/114/1TH.4.2

I Thessalonians 4:3
For this is the will of God, your **sanctification**: that you should **abstain** from **sexual immorality**;
https://my.bible.com/bible/114/1TH.4.3

Sanctification = the action of making or declaring something holy
Abstain = refrain, desist, hold back, avoid…
Sexual immorality = sex that deviates from God's standards.
Which include: premarital sex, incest, homosexuality, bestiality and adultery.

Lets read

I Corinthians 6:15-20
15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not!

16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh."

17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

18 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.

19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.
https://my.bible.com/bible/114/1CO.6.15-20

Colossians 3:5
5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.
https://my.bible.com/bible/114/COL.3.5

I Thessalonians 4:4
that each of you should know how to **possess (Own)** his own **vessel (Body)** in **sanctification (Holiness)** and honor,
https://my.bible.com/bible/114/1TH.4.4

To possess his own vessel: probably refers to controlling the lustful sexual desires of ones own body that might lead a Christian to sin.

I Thessalonians 4:5
not in passion of lust, like the **Gentiles** who **do not know God**;
https://my.bible.com/bible/114/1TH.4.5

Gentiles = Not Jewish or not belonging to one's religious community.

I Thessalonians 4:6
that no one should **take advantage** of and **defraud** his brother **in this matter**, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified.
https://my.bible.com/bible/114/1TH.4.6

take advantage in this context is to sin against someone.
in this matter points back to the discussion of sexual purity in verses 3-5.
To commit a sexual sin is to sin against and **defraud** a fellow Christian.

Sexual transgression is fraud, which is also a form of theft.

Paul gave us two reasons for us as Christians to **abstain** (Refrain, desist, hold back avoid, go without…) from sexual immorality.

1. The **LORD** will judge this offense.
2. This violates God's call to holiness.

One should never mix human sexual impurity with God's holy nature in the Holy Spirit, who dwells within the Christian as we We can see this in:

I Corinthians 6:19
Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?
https://my.bible.com/bible/114/1CO.6.19

I Thessalonians 4:7-8
7 For God did not call us to **uncleanness**, but in **holiness**.

8 Therefore he who **rejects this** does not **reject man**, **but God**, who has also given us **His Holy Spirit**.
https://my.bible.com/bible/114/1TH.4.7-8

I Thessalonians 4:9-12
9 But concerning **brotherly love (GK word: philadelphia)**
you have **no need** that I should write to you, for you yourselves are **taught by God** to love one another; **(We know better)**

10 and indeed you **do so** toward **all the brethren** who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, **brethren**, that you **increase** more and more; **(To grow in this knowledge)**

11 that you also **aspire (Aim for, hope for, to long for...)**
to lead a **quiet life**, to **mind your own *business***, and to **work with your own hands**, as we commanded you,

12 that you may **walk properly (In a Godly manner, and in holiness)** toward those who are outside, **(To do otherwise would be to show outsiders, unbelievers and poor testimony)** and that you may **lack nothing**.
(This type of work ethic demonstrates providing for your own needs. Hints: lack nothing)
https://my.bible.com/bible/114/1TH.4.9-12

II Thessalonians 3:7-12
7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you;

8 nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you,

9 not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us.

10 For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not

work, neither shall he eat.

11 For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies.

12 Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread.
https://my.bible.com/bible/114/2TH.3.7-12

I Thessalonians 2:9
For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God.'
https://my.bible.com/bible/114/1TH.2.9

So in closing, I believe that we are being shown here that with the guidance of the Holy Spirit who is in us as born again believers, we have already been shown and have learned to lean upon or Father in Heaven and all of His teachings.
And in doing so we to can lead a quiet life, and live in the ways of holiness rather than the ways of this world.

Remember we will all be tempted by sin as even Jesus Christ was, but to be tempted is NOT SIN, but to act upon that temptation is sin. So may we abound more and more in this knowledge. Thank you Father for this teaching and God bless.