

# **Sermon Handout**

## **The Christian's Duty**

### **I Thessalonians 4:3-7**

#### **I. Called to Holiness**

- a. Mankind's main purpose: the glory & enjoyment of God (WLC Q1)
  - i. Certain attributes of God are shared with redeemed man  
Wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, truth
  - ii. Christians are called to holiness (sins forgiven)
    1. To be like God in purity I Pet 1:13-16
    2. Put off/put on: exchange the old for the new Eph 4:21-24
    3. Given a heart of flesh Jer 31:33; Heb 8:10-12 *cf.* Ez 11:19-20
- b. God's will for us is that we be sanctified I Thess 4:3; Rom 12:1-2
- c. Our capability is communicated through two coordinate means
  - i. The Holy Spirit
    1. He enabled the writing of the New Testament  
Jn 16:12-14; I Cor 2:9-11
    2. He reveals Christ to us, interpreting the Scriptures  
I Cor 2:12-16; *cf.* I Jn 2:20, 27
  - ii. The Word of God (inspired by the Holy Spirit – II Pet 1:20-21)
    1. The strength of sanctification Ps 119:11; II Tim 3:14-17
    2. The guide to godly behavior Rom 3:19-22, 31; 7:5-14  
*See* Rom 13:8-10 – the Law/Love relationship

#### **II. Faith & Sanctification are Inseparable**

- a. Scripture dictates our duties together with our faith (WSC Q3)
  - i. Faith & love are together in Christ II Tim 1:9-13
  - ii. If we despise holiness, we despise God I Thess 4:8

#### **III. What are the Practical Implications of this Matter?**

- a. The simple answer is two-fold
  - i. Study the implications of the 10 Words *cf.* Mt 5:17-48
  - ii. Practice consciously identifying sinful thoughts & actions
  - iii. Pray: for others and yourself (*esp.* confession & gratitude)
- b. Pay attention to your thoughts & actions regarding:
  - i. Husband/Wife relations
  - ii. Raising your children
  - iii. How you interact with other Christians
  - iv. How you interact with unbelievers; socially and at work