

Church Together with the Lord

MAKEOVER SERIES

1 Thessalonians 4

Together with the Lord

¹ Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we urge you in the name of the Lord Jesus to live in a way that pleases God, as we have taught you. You live this way already, and we encourage you to do so even more.

² For you remember what we taught you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

³ God's will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin.

⁴ Then each of you will control his own body and live in holiness and honor—

⁵ not in lustful passion like the pagans who do not know God and his ways.

⁶ Never harm or cheat a Christian brother in this matter by violating his wife, for the Lord avenges all such sins, as we have solemnly warned you before.

⁷ God has called us to live holy lives, not impure lives.

⁸ Therefore, anyone who refuses to live by these rules is not disobeying human teaching but is rejecting God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

⁹ But we don't need to write to you about the importance of loving each other, for God himself has taught you to love one another.

¹⁰ Indeed, you already show your love for all the believers throughout Macedonia. Even so, dear brothers and sisters, we urge you to love them even more.

¹¹ Make it your goal to live a quiet life, minding your own business and working with your hands, just as we instructed you before.

¹² Then people who are not Christians will respect the way you live, and you will not need to depend on others.

¹³ And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope.

¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died.

¹⁵ We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died.

¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves.

¹⁷ Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever.

¹⁸ So encourage each other with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4:1-18 (NLT)

Vertical

Horizontal

Together with the Lord and His people

Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. So encourage (*parakleite*) each other with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4:17-18 (NLT)

Live in a Way that Pleases God

Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we urge you in the name of the Lord Jesus to live in a way that pleases God, as we have taught you. You live this way already, and we encourage you to do so even more. 1 Thessalonians 4:1 (NLT)

The Lord Communicates to His Church

We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. 1 Thessalonians 4:15 (NLT)

Relating in Love to One Another

But we don't need to write to you about the importance of loving each other, for God himself has taught you to love one another. Indeed, you already show your love for all the believers throughout Macedonia. Even so, dear brothers and sisters, we urge you to love them even more. 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10 (NLT)

Engage in Spiritual Development

So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NLT)

Church Makeover Applications

- Keeping the vertical relationships central and allowing the horizontal relationships to flow from there
- Listening to the Lord's instructions to the church
- Living life between salvation and eternity as fully committed followers of Jesus
- Increasingly pursuing life with Jesus and His people
- Developing in relational skills in order to encourage and build up others in their life with Christ