

Knowing God's Will Brings Confidence With Confidence

Highs & Lows

Community Group Questions:

1. What's one of the decisions you've made in life that is satisfying to you? What's a decision that you at times regret?
2. What role does regret play in your life? Does it impact your decision-making going forward?
3. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12. Where are all the places you see either holiness or sanctification (to be made holy) mentioned?
4. What is the connection Paul makes between holiness and God's will?
5. How does that connection help us make decisions with confidence? Does that help you with any big decisions you're currently facing? If you're open to it, share with the group.

Prayer

"It is easy to mourn the lives we aren't living. Easy to wish we'd developed other other talents, said yes to different offers. Easy to wish we'd worked harder, loved better, handled our finances more astutely, been more popular, stayed in the band, gone to Australia, said yes to the coffee or done more...It takes no effort to miss the friends we didn't make and the work we didn't do and the people we didn't marry and the children we didn't have... But it is not lives we regret not living that are the real problem. It is the regret itself. It's the regret that makes us shrivel and wither and feel like our own and other people's worst enemy." -The Midnight Library

Every **DECISION** rules out potential versions of your **LIFE**.

QUESTION: How can I make decisions with confidence?

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 *As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. 2 For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. 3 It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, 5 not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; 6 and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. 7 For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. 8 Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.*

Holiness cultivates **HONOR**.

When we choose against **HOLINESS**, we're choosing against what we were made for.

1 Thessalonians 4:9-12 *Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. **10** And in fact, you do love all of God's family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more, **11** and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, **12** so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.*

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28 *Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. **13** Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. **14** And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. **15** Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else. **16** Rejoice always, **17** pray continually, **18** give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. **19** Do not quench the Spirit. **20** Do not treat prophecies with contempt **21** but test them all; hold on to what is good, **22** reject every kind of evil. **23** May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **24** The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it. **25** Brothers and sisters, pray for us. **26** Greet all God's people with a holy kiss. **27** I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers and sisters. **28** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*

Holiness cultivates **PEACE**.

Holiness in Relationships

Warn those who are idle and disruptive

Encourage the disheartened

Help the weak

Be patient with everyone

Pay back good for wrong

Rejoice always

Pray continually

Give thanks in all circumstances

The Opposite of Holiness in Relationships

Ignore and **Abuse** those who are idle and disruptive

Humiliate the disheartened

Dismiss the weak

Be **Frustrated** and **Annoyed** with everyone

Pay back **Wrong for Good**

Complain always

Disregard God

Give **Criticisms** in all circumstances

GOSPEL TRUTH: We can **TRUST** God because he is **HOLY**.

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—I took the one less traveled by, And that has made all the difference. - Robert Frost

Holiness vs. Sin in Relationships

Warn those who are idle and disruptive | Ignore or Abuse

Encourage the disheartened | Humiliate

Help the weak | Aggravate

Be patient with everyone | Treat with Frustration and Annoyance

Pay back good for wrong | Pay back good with evil

Rejoice always | Complain always

Pray continually | Disregard God

Give thanks in all circumstances | Give criticisms in all circumstances

“Has this world been so kind to you that you should leave with regret? There are better things ahead than any we leave behind.” -C.S. Lewis

BOTTOM LINE: The life that’s most pleasing to **GOD** is also most pleasing to **YOU**.
