



## Decisions

April 29, 2018

### Scripture Text

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

### Connect

What did God teach you during the message this weekend? Did anything in particular stand out? Why?

When in the past have you had a struggle to determine God's will for a big decision you faced? What was it and what happened?

What big decision(s) are you facing right now? Where do you think God is leading you in this matter?

### Engage

#### **Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12**

The beginning of verse 3 gives a very direct statement of what God's will is: "For this is the will of God, your sanctification". What is sanctification? What is its goal? When and how does it occur? How is it different from justification?

What instructions had the Thessalonians received from Paul (vv.1-2)? What was the purpose of those instructions?

What 3 areas of lifestyle, discussed here (vv.3-8, 9-10, and 11-12), most affect a Christian's ministry? How so?

How is Paul encouraging the Thessalonians here? What is the guiding principal behind Paul's commands and warnings? What does this passage say to someone who has already made sexual mistakes?

When urged to love "more and more," how do you suppose the Thessalonians felt?

How will a lifestyle that bears witness to God affect sexual immorality? Work relationships? Time priorities? Small group dynamics?

What do you say to someone who believes you can do anything you want, as long as you mind your own business (v.11) and no one gets hurt (v.6)? Would you say anything different to a Christian who believes the same thing about sexual freedom? If so, what?

If God's will for us is our sanctification, how does that constrain us in our choices? How does it free us in our choices? How does it help us to understand and accept difficult circumstances?

### Apply

What things does a Christian need to do to progress in their sanctification?

In light of the last question, what do you need to do or change in your life?

If you are facing a decision now, how will each of your alternatives affect your sanctification?