




www.brethrentraining.org

## Growth that pleases God

---



1 Thessalonians  
Jonathan Lamb

© 2018 Brethren Training Network

2

www.brethrentraining.org

### Holiness?

*•‘Thinness; hollow-eyed gauntness; beards; sandals; long robes; stone cells; no sex; no jokes; hair shirts; frequent cold baths; fasting; hours of prayer; wild rocky deserts; getting up at 4.00am; clean fingernails; stained glass; self-humiliation.’*

www.brethrentraining.org

### Holiness?

*•‘There is a great market for religious experience in our world; but there is little enthusiasm for the patient acquisition of virtue, little inclination to sign up for a long apprenticeship in what earlier generations called holiness.’*

*Eugene Peterson, A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*

www.brethrentraining.org

### Holiness in 1 Thessalonians

- Prominent in every chapter
- The prayer of 3:11-13
- Paul’s example 1:5, 2:10
- The prayer of 5:23,24

www.brethrentraining.org

### The Thessalonian church

- It was a **young church**
  - Acts 17:1-4
- It was a **persecuted church**
  - 1 Thess 3:3,5
- It was a **model church**
  - 1 Thess 1:5-8

## The Thessalonian church

www.brotherstaring.org 

- The ripple effect
  - 1:5 the gospel came to you
  - 1:6 you welcomed the message
  - 1:8 it rang out from you everywhere

## The Thessalonian church

www.brotherstaring.org 

- The ripple effect
  - 1:5 the gospel came to you
  - 1:6 you welcomed the message
  - 1:8 it rang out from you everywhere
- Emulating and modelling
  - 1:6 you became imitators of us
  - 1:7 you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia

## 1. The church's calling 3:11-4:8

www.brotherstaring.org 

•3:13 *'May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.'*

## 1. The church's calling 3:11-4:8

www.brotherstaring.org 

- The prayer 3:11-13
  - v11 God will make the way clear for Paul's visit
  - v12 God will enable spiritual growth
  - v13 God will present them blameless

## 1. The church's calling 3:11-4:8

www.brotherstaring.org 

- Paul's practical teaching
  - 4:1 *'How to live in order to please God.'*
  - 4:3 *'It is God's will that you should be sanctified.'*
  - 4:7 *'For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.'*

## 1. The church's calling 3:11-4:8

www.brotherstaring.org 

- God's will           4:3
- God's call           4:7
- God's Spirit       4:8

## 2. The church's leadership

- 'The need to connect your voice with your touch'
- 'Keep watch over yourselves and all of the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers.'  
Acts 20:28
- 'Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example to the believers in speech, in love, in faith and in purity. Watch your life and your doctrine closely.'  
1Tim 4:12-16

## 2. The church's leadership

- 1:5 *'Our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake.'*

## 2. The church's leadership

- 1:5 *'Our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake.'*
- 2:10-12 *'You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed.'*

## 2. The church's leadership

- *'Examples do strangely charm us into imitation. When holiness is pressed upon us we are prone to think that it is a doctrine calculated for angels and spirits whose dwelling is not with flesh. But when we read the lives of them that excelled in holiness, though they were persons of like passions with ourselves, the conviction is wonderful and powerful.'*

Cotton Mather

## 3. The church's confidence

- 5:23,24 *'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. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.'*

## 3. The church's confidence

- **It is comprehensive:** *'your whole spirit, soul and body'*

### 3. The church's confidence

[www.brethrentraining.org](http://www.brethrentraining.org)

- It is **comprehensive**: 'your *whole spirit, soul and body*'
- It is **urgent**: 'at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ'

### 3. The church's confidence

[www.brethrentraining.org](http://www.brethrentraining.org)

- It is **comprehensive**: 'your *whole spirit, soul and body*'
- It is **urgent**: 'at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ'
- It is **guaranteed**: 'The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.'

### Some implications

[www.brethrentraining.org](http://www.brethrentraining.org)

- We should **pray** for this
- We should **teach** this
- We should **model** this

### Some applications

[www.brethrentraining.org](http://www.brethrentraining.org)

- 'The task of the church is not to make men and women happy; it is to make them holy.'
- Chuck Colson



**BRETHREN**  
TRAINING NETWORK