

**SCC Small Group Discussion**  
**Read The Warning Label – 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8**  
Derived from a sermon on June 23, 2024 by Rev. Rick Dietzman

**Getting Started:**

What would you say is God's will for your life right now?

How have some of the warnings in the Bible helped in your own decision making?

**Sermon outline and questions:**

Warning Labels – Food Allergens, tobacco, alcohol, medicine, consumer products. They shout at us to pay attention.

A. What excuses do you tend to have for not heeding warning labels?

What the Bible warns against: Idolatry, sexual immorality, putting God to the test (unbelief or contempt), grumbling, (1 Corinthians 10)

*"Those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.."* Galatians 5:21

B. What is it about these behaviors which necessitate this kind of caution?

The Bible includes the warning in the context of the instructions.

*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.* 1 Thessalonians 4:1

C. How am I living to please God and follow his will?

*For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. It is God's will that you should be sanctified: 1 Thessalonians 4:2-3*

D. What is sanctification and why does Paul say that sanctification is God's will for us?

God's design: the way it's supposed to be... Wholeness instead of brokenness

"God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth"  
Genesis 1:28

"Therefore, a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." Genesis 2:24

E. Talk or write about how different kinds of sexual sin inhibit fruitfulness and wholeness, instead leading to brokenness.

*it's God's will...that you should avoid sexual immorality; <sup>4</sup> that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable,<sup>5</sup> not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; 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. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-6*

F. How am I responding to the warnings in this passage?

*For God did not call us to be impure but to live a holy life. 1 Thessalonians 4:7*

G. What does God want me to do now?

**As an application, read the following passages:**

*Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live. For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. Romans 8:12-14*

*Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gave you his Holy Spirit. 1 Thessalonians 4:8*

*Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Colossians 3: 5-10*

*Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Colossians 3:12-14*

Discuss or write what it means to be led by the Spirit and put on the new self.