

## 1 Thessalonians 4 • Characteristics of the Christian Life

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1. (v.1-2) The primary focus is to put into **practice** what we already **know**.
2. (v.3a) God assesses us based on our commitment to be **set apart** and devoted **exclusively** to Him.
3. (v.3b-8) Sanctification is the sum of our choices to behave according to **God's Word** rather than our own **desire**.
4. (v.9-12) Biblical sanctification is characterized by biblical **love** that applies to biblical **truth** to our personal **relationships** both inside and outside the Church.
5. (v.13-18) Biblical **hope** testifies to future End Times events through a biblically **obedient** life.

### *This provides the fulfillment of 1:3-4 individually:*

1. The “work of **faith**” is **sanctification**, being personally obedient as in a faithful marital relationship with Christ.
2. The “labor of **love**” is **loving deeper**, not being satisfied with the status quo.
3. The “steadfastness of **hope**” is the knowledge that this life’s **behavior** and **choices** are an extension of the next.

### *This provides the fulfillment of 1:3-4 corporately:*

1. The “work of **faith**” is maintaining **pure** relationships with others.
2. The “labor of **love**” is living a **visibly** exemplary life as a **witness** to others, being neither an emotional nor physical **burden** to others.
3. The “steadfastness of **hope**” is mutual **comfort** of our future life in Christ.

Each aspect of the personal application fulfills the **First Tablet** to love God with all our heart, soul and mind; each aspect of the group application fulfills the **Second Tablet** to love our neighbor as our self.