

1 THESSALONIANS

**STANDING FIRM & PRESSING ON,
UNITED TO JESUS.**

A Plan for Disciple Makers

1 Thessalonians 4:1-2

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1 Thessalonians 4:1-2 establishes the basis for the various topics that will be addressed in chapters four and five. More importantly, it offers a simple plan for what Christians should be aiming for in our walk as disciples of Jesus Christ and as those who disciple others: we must grow in pleasing God.

What is being urged in 1 Thessalonians 4:1-2 is a standard to which all followers of Jesus Christ are called, as well as a simple plan we can follow in discipling others.

1. The Aim: to grow in pleasing God
2. The Authority (for urging believers to please God): in the Lord Jesus

3. The Attitude (as we urge believers to please God): brotherly love

4. The Approach (for urging believers to please God): instruction, correction and exhortation

Questions to Consider

1. R.C. Sproul, in *Pleasing God*, wrote, "Every Christian should have a passion to please God. We are to delight in honoring Him. It is our own great pleasure to please our Redeemer. We all begin the Christian life with the intention of living in such a way as to please God. But we encounter obstacles along the way. We meet with conflicts between what pleases us and what pleases God." What are some of the more obvious obstacles and conflicts that you are facing? What are the next steps you can take in dealing with those obstacles?
2. Identify some of the areas of your life in which you've experienced growth in pleasing God, and then take a few minutes to thank Him for causing you to grow in those areas.
3. Why is the authority of the Lord Jesus crucial when discipling other believers and helping them to grow in pleasing God?
4. How would you characterize Paul's attitude toward the Thessalonian believers, even when he had to correct and exhort them? How can you apply that attitude in your own discipling of others?
5. What do we need to know to be effective in discipling others with instruction, correction, and exhortation?