

November 29, 2015
Thank You, God, for Making All Things New
I Thessalonians 4
Shay Robbins

1. Shay's main idea is that God has made all things new, exposing worldly truth as counterfeit. List the four loves Shay discussed, which are found in chapter four of Paul's letter to the Thessalonians. (**True sexual love, true brotherly love, true love for those outside the faith, trust love for Christ and our eternal home with him.**)

2. Read I Thessalonians 4:1-4.

*How is the church in Thessalonica both commended and challenged? (**Commended for living to please God. Challenged to "Excel still more" (NASB) or to "do this more and more."**)

*How do you respond to the idea of "do this more and more"? (**Discouraged? Overwhelmed? Irritated? Or Encouraged? Challenged? Eager to grow?**)

*If it's true he accepts us as we are, why does he call us to more and more?

3. Read I Thessalonian 4:5-8. How does sexual sin "wrong" or "take advantage" of another?

4. The following verses give us an idea of some of the things that compose "True Sexual Love." Read them and explain how they contribute to our understanding of sexual love.

Genesis 2:24 (**God establishes marriages between one man and one woman.**)

Hebrews 13:4 (**God establishes that all sex outside of the marriage bed is wrong.**)

Matthew 5:27-28 (**God establishes that lustful thoughts are wrong.**)

5. Paul also urges the Thessalonians to love fellow Christians more and more.

*Read Acts 2:42-47 and describe the community of the early church.

*How has being part of a community of believers in your Christian life helped you?

*How has God used small groups you have been in to minister to you?

6. Read I Thessalonian 4:11-12.

*Explain how we are to interact with non-believers.

*Describe someone you know who lives this way.

*Why is gaining the "respect" of non-believers crucial to loving like Jesus does?

7. Read I Thessalonians 4:13-18 and explain Paul's understanding of Jesus's return.

8. How does the truth of Heaven affect your life?

9. How is God making things new in your marriage, friendships, ministries, and your desire to be with him as you have grown to know him better?