

Doctrines: Sanctification

TITLE: "I am not who I was" - Sanctification

Hebrews 12:1-25

Point: Jesus perfects our sanctification through obedience

Intro: (the game "Would You Rather?")

Would you rather be sitting here today knowing that you're truly saved=certain you're going to heaven,
or... Would you rather be sitting here today guessing that you're saved= hoping you're going to heaven but not sure?

We are never expected to be left guessing, because God never wants us to be guessing.

TRANS: There is a way that God has provided so that you can be SURE you are saved. There is an inner reality that we belong to Christ - and an outer reality that we walking with Christ.

*"There is **therefore now** no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh (INNER REALITY - JUSTIFICATION), **in order that** the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit." (OUTER REALITY - SANCTIFICATION) (Romans 8:1-4)*

Sermon Series:

We're in a series on Doctrines you can't afford to get wrong. Last week we taught on Justification, Today we're going to be talking about Sanctification.

Three Tiered Doctrines: (Bottom to Top) - top shelf

3rd Tier: Worship style, preferences, preaching style

2nd Tier: Calvinism, Speaking in Tongues, 6-day creation

1st Tier: The gospel, the essentials

Definition:

Justification = to be declared holy - a legal term

Sanctification = has two parts -

1st declared sanctification - "you are set apart/holy" - a positional term

2nd progressive sanctification - "you are to become set apart/ holy" - a practical term (this is the one I want to focus on today)

Justification = You were saved

Sanctification = You are being saved

Glorification (next week)= You will be saved - made holy

Justification = faith in the gospel that removes legal guilt before God

Sanctification = reveals the reality of the Gospel in your life

Justification = requires accepting the Gospel by faith

Sanctification = faith in the gospel requires an "Ongoing obedience" - *Actions follow beliefs*

So, this message is mainly addressed to Christians.

Idea - The BIGGER your view of God, the more you will want to obey Him. So, place a mental slash mark every time you feel God poking you in this message. At the end... how many of these will you act on? This will be a direct reflection of how Big your view of God is. How holy you believe He is. And how serious you think He takes your holiness and your sin.

Why can't I afford to get Sanctification wrong - PERSONALLY?

Peter says your prayers are hindered

Paul says our ministry is fruitless

John says your relationship with God will struggle

James says you might not be a Christian

Thoughts:

- The normal expectation in Scripture is that you will bear fruit after you come to trust in Jesus - you were saved for this reason
 - Light is meant to shine
 - Salt is meant to make a difference
- Sad, but some people will get to heaven by "the skin of their teeth" - you don't want to be that person
- Why we can't afford to get this wrong.
 - You can't rest your salvation & eternity on a profession of faith that you made when you were 8 years old -with no fruit! Alive people do what alive people do and Saved people do what saved people do. - Are you doing what saved people do?
 - ILL: Was **King Saul** saved? (probably not)

- Chosen by God - crowned him - gave him purpose - to led God's people
- But he wasted his life!
- ILL: Was **Samson** saved? (probably - listed in Heb.11)
 - But by the "Skin of his teeth"
 - Chosen by God -was gifted by God - to led God's people...
 - But he wasted his potential!
- ILL: Was the **Paul Apostle** saved? (YES)
 - But Paul killed Christians - served himself - hated the Gospel
 - Chosen by God - was gifted by God - to spread the Gospel
 - And his life demonstrated the work of God in his life!
- **How sanctification is worked out**
 - I do it myself and for myself (behavior modification)
 - I make Jesus my master and allow Him to do in me (Lordship)
 - I am encouraged in this when I'm in a community of faith
 - I see it modeled before my eyes
 - I'm encouraged when I succeed
 - I'm challenged when I fail
- A truly saved person **should desire** is to live a sanctified life
 - If you're desire is NOT to live a sanctified life....?
 - Sanctification is NEVER sinlessness!

Biblical context:

Hebrews 1-11

1. Written to people who thought they needed to continue in the Mosaic Law and it's system **to earn salvation**
2. They were told to consider Jesus, who was not only the **perfect priest**, but also the **perfect sacrifice!**

3. Chapter 11 contains a list of people who lived as examples of living by true faith.

Hebrews 12:1 "**Therefore...**" (not all 'therefores' are the same)

How do I apply what has been said.

Make it Hurt (v 1-4 NASB)

*Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside **every encumbrance** and the **sin** which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance **the race** that is set before us, 2 **fixing our eyes on Jesus**, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will **not grow weary and lose heart**. 4 You have **not yet resisted** to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin;*

This is addressing Believers

- These are people who would look at Heb.11 - and say they WANT to be like THOSE people

"**every encumbrance**" - bulky mass GR - *onkos* (only here in the NT), a word that may mean any kind of weight that weigh you down.

- Not always a sin - anything that hinders you from running as fast as you can
 - It might be entangling you and you know it deep down
 - You don't know what they are, until you start running.

- Is there something in your life hindering you from running - and it may not even be sin?

ILL: Long distant bicyclists wore painters hats in 80's, but Now they wear huge helmets because they have better air flow

What are those things that are weighing you down and keeping you from doing your best for God?

"sin which so easily entangles"

- This thing is sin!
- NIV = *"the sin that so Easily entangles"* = cleverly, and readily entangles. This is sin!

ILL: This would be like going into a wrestling match in a bathrobe

QUESTION: Can there be a sin that clings so closely to someone who loves and worships Jesus? - SURE there are all kinds of examples

"Run the race" - an athletic contest.

Every race is different - (but this one is a marathon - not a sprint!)

"fixing our eyes on Jesus"

They had been looking at humans - now look at Jesus
Jesus is *"the founder AND perfecter of our faith"*

Jesus brought faith to you

Jesus 'perfects' faith in you

"not grow weary or fainthearted" - give up prematurely

ILL: August I did a Tough Mudder

Everyone wants to know the 'secret'

But the real 'secret' is not well accepted

- The **power** for my sanctification is NOT in me - **it's in Jesus**
- The **reality** of my sanctification is obedience - it's in me
 - How do we know this? Because Jesus was the example of 100% obedience on the cross that we should follow

Make it Hurt or nothing will change.

2. Make it Last (v 5-11 NASB)

*and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "My son, do not regard lightly **the discipline of the Lord**, Nor faint when you are reproved by Him; 6 For those whom **the Lord loves He disciplines**, And He scourges every son whom He receives." 7 It is for discipline that you endure; **God deals with you as with sons**; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? 8 But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? 10 For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but **He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness.** 11 All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.*

They had forgotten an important point:

Scripture links suffering and discipline to sonship

“but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness” (be sanctified)

Discipline is different than punishment!

Punishment only addresses action... Deals with the past mistake

- Is only concerned about the action, not the heart
- Is not concerned about future behavior
- ILL: Our prison system is only for punishment
 - 68%-75% of inmates return to prison within 5 yrs

But **Discipline** addresses the heart... Instruction that aims to increase virtue and character

- Is mainly concerned with the heart - not just the action.
- the whole training and education of children (which relates to the cultivation their minds and morals,
- No one likes to be disciplined but it is one of the greatest evidences that we are loved! And that we are legitimate sons and daughters of God.

Thought: God is not in the taking business...He is in the exchanging business. As we surrender the weights and sins in our life, He replaces them with much better things.

This is how He sanctifies

He will not “take” away things, or force us to give them up

Sometimes this is easy - sometimes this is hard

God is expecting us to be obedient

v 11 "but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness" (our sanctification)

Make it Last by accepting discipline from a loving Father

3. Make it Real (v 12-14 NASB)

ILLUSTRATION: John Beckham "Be for real Beckham"

Therefore, *strengthen* the hands that are *weak* and the knees that are *feeble*, 13 and *make straight* paths for your feet, so that the limb which is *lame* may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed. 14 Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.

Hebrews 12:25 Here's the warning:

[25] See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking. For if those did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape who turn away from Him who warns from heaven.

Him who warns from earth = Moses & the prophets

Him who warns from heaven = Jesus

Escape what? = consequences

What is that going to be like?

Promise: 1 Tim 2:11-15

11 The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him,

he also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself.

If you're faithless (un-sanctified) - good luck

If you are faithful (sanctified) - rewards (here and after) will abound

We are never meant to guess about our salvation

The only reason you would guess about your salvation is because you're not bearing fruit

Make it Real by Taking God Seriously, and you'll take sin seriously.

So What?

1. How many times did the Holy Spirit convict you?

What is your typical response? (surrender or defense?)

2. How do you change?

By letting the Holy Spirit do His work in you - how are you doing?

By obeying the Lord and His Word - how are you doing?

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments." (John 14:15)

But - If you are NOT obeying Him regularly...what proof do you have that you belong to Him?

3. Are you the same person you were last year this time

You shouldn't be

The more you are sanctified, the more you can use your life to bring God glory

CLOSING:

The question is not a matter of "Am I saved?", it's a matter of "Have I surrendered everything to Him and am I obeying Him completely?"

Prayer

Communion

We rarely deal with what with happened to the Corinthian Christians that were abusing the Lord's supper. But today I want you to consider those Corinthians. Their actions demonstrated they were not Sanctified, but they were Justified. Today, none of us are as Sanctified as we should be, be if you have trusted Jesus as your Savior by faith, you are encouraged to share in this communion time. Whether Village Church is your home or if your visiting with us today.

However, if you are here and you've never experienced God's forgiveness and the security that is in knowing Christ as your Savior, any of us would love to talk to you further about what that means. Here's what you need to know:

Admit that you've sinned and need God's forgiveness, Believe that Jesus died for your sin personally, then Confess Him as your Savior to others.

If you've never done something like that before, we'd like to ask that when the trays come to you, just pass them along. No one will say anything to you or point you out. We just don't want you to feel forced into proclaiming something that's not true for yourself. But maybe something has been said or done in our service to cause you to want today to be the day you accept Jesus as your personal Savior.

Here in a little while the cups with the bread and the juice will be passed. These elements represent the body and blood of Christ, which were given freely for our sin. When you receive the cups, please stand and join along with the

worship team. Once everyone has received the cups and we finish our song of worship, we'll partake together.

Before the trays are passed out, we're going to take a minute to silent our hearts, and to reflect on what I just talk about and what Jesus has done for you personally. At the end of this moment, I'll pray and the trays will be passed.

1. **Prayer**

open lids – the men will take the trays – serve the men when they return

2. **Song**

WT will start to play

1 Corinthians 11:23-25 - read slow and purposeful

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

3. **Partake**

Benediction

WHAT ARE YOUR NEXT STEPS?

Hebrews 12:25 - **A benediction for those yet to trust in Christ**

[25] *See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven.*

Hebrews 12:12-13 - **A benediction for those who have trusted in Christ**

[12] *Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, [13] and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. [14] Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.*