

Dgroup Discussion Guide for July 8, 2018
3pS

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

Sanctification: the process of making set apart, sanctification, consecration; holiness

Sanctification is “the work of God’s free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.” It is a *continuing change* worked by God in us, freeing us from sinful habits and forming in us Christlike affections, dispositions, and virtues. It does not mean that sin is instantly eradicated, but it is also more than a counteraction in which sin is merely restrained or repressed without being progressively destroyed. *Sanctification is a real transformation*, not just the appearance of one.

The Three Ps of Sanctification:

Positional - sanctification at the time of conversion

2 Corinthians 5:17 says, ***Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*** When we become born again and enter a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, His blood covers us and makes us new. It is by this position that God declares us holy. However, this does not mean that we are free from sin. 1 John 1:8-9 says, ***If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***

Progressive - always living out our salvation

After God—in His grace—saves us, He expects us to live sanctified lives that are set apart, and to grow in these holy lives. 1 Peter 1:14-16 says, ***As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in your behavior; because it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”*** God has given us the Word so that we may know how to live according to His expectations. Don’t stop at “the prayer,” because that is merely regeneration. The Bible tells us in 2 Peter 3:17-18 to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord. Our Christianity cannot just end at the day we are saved, but must extend to our everyday lives until the day we die. Philippians 1:6 says, ***For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.***

Permanent - only when we are in heaven forever

we will be. We know the when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. When we get to heaven, we will know Jesus Christ completely. Colossians 3:14 says, **Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you will also be revealed with Him in glory.**

This is how we can apply sanctification to our lives:

Are you sure you are born again in Christ?

Being born-again is the prerequisite to spending eternity with God in heaven. John 3:7 says, **“Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’”** It is not an option.

Grow in holiness

Philippians 2:12-13 says, **So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with tea and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.** God commands us to grow, but He also equips us with the Holy Spirit to help us as we do so.

Eagerly await the coming of Jesus

2 Timothy 4:7-8 says, **I have fought the fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.**

God did not only call us to be saved, but to sanctified.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How is sanctification applied in your life?
 - a. are you truly born again?
 - b. How are you growing in holiness?
 - c. How are your preparing for the coming of Jesus?
2. Are we intentionally living out our lives as sanctified believers?
3. What are some things you can commit to in order to start living a sanctified life?