

January 2021 Foundations Series

Foundational Series

From Pastor Dale Shorter's Sermons

Lesson #1, The Need for Foundation; Lesson #2, The Fall of Man

Lesson #3, The Salvation of Man

Sanctification

THE BIBLE IS A BOOK OF TRUTH WITH A LOT OF LIFE—It has murder, it has victory, it has mayhem, it has disaster, it has war, it has adulterous and detestable acts, AND.. it has REDEMPTION AND IT HAS SANCTIFICATION.

“Sanctification is the work of the Holy Spirit in us whereby our inner being is progressively changed, freeing us more and more from sinful traits and developing within us over time the virtues of Christlike character.” Jerry Bridges

Have you ever heard the term “Being sanctified wholly”? To be "sanctified wholly" means that all we are, all we have, and all we ever hope to be are completely, fully, radically surrendered to God.

“We are 100 percent responsible for the pursuit of holiness, but at the same time we are 100 percent dependent upon the Holy Spirit to enable us in that pursuit. The pursuit of holiness is not a pull-yourself-up-by-your-own-bootstraps approach to the Christian life.” Jerry Bridges

“Whether this was explicitly taught or implicitly caught, I grew up with the impression that when it comes to the Christian life, justification was step one and sanctification was step two and that once we get to step two there's no reason to revisit step one.” Tullian Tchividjian

“Due to the fact that facts matter, facts are factually true.” Gerald Cumby

THE BIBLE IS 100% FACT!

Last week we discussed the Salvation of Man.

- **Salvation is the initiative of God**
 - ✓ Amazing Grace is God's Grace
 - ✓ Justice is God GIVING us what we DO deserve
 - ✓ Mercy is God NOT GIVING us what we DO deserve
 - ✓ Grace is GIVING us what we DON'T deserve

- **Salvation is the Gift of God**
There is no other way to be saved, apart from grace.
 - **Salvation is the Work of God**
It is something God has DONE...it is HIS ACCOMPLISHED WORK
 - **Salvation is the Secret to an Overcoming Life**
Jesus Christ provides the GRACE needed to overcome the nature within and the enemies without.
 - **Salvation is Sufficient**
 - ✓ Trouble is going to come into your life and God is going to give you grace to deal with it!
 - ✓ We can praise God through the difficulty because we have experienced the grace of God in our lives and know it is sufficient!
 - **Salvation is Supreme**
There are those who have accomplished great things in life...but the greatest accomplishment in life is NOT the contribution of man but of GOD!
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SANCTIFICATION

Romans 12:1-2, *“And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.^[a] ² Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.”*

Sanctification appears 5 times in the Bible (KJV); sanctified (62 times); sanctifieth (4 times); sanctify (70 times).

Therefore, it is important we understand and know what it means to be sanctified!

Teaching Insights:

- **Sanctification refers to the concept of being set apart as sacred**
 - ✓ Sanctification is closely related to Holiness and godly living...maintaining purity.
 - ✓ This doctrine of sanctification points to a move toward holy and righteous living that characterizes following Christ.

“It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; ⁴ that each of you should learn to control your own body^[a] in a way that is holy and honorable, ⁵ not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; ⁶ and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister.^[b] The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. ⁷ For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. ⁸ Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.” (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8).

- **Sanctification has to do with our character and conduct.**
- **Sanctification plays an important role in the life and effectiveness of a Christian.**

The Idea of Service and Maturity

- **We are to move on to serve/worship the Lord and Help others in their spiritual journey**
- **God has given to everyone of us a ministry.** In Romans 12:1 Paul calls this our “reasonable service.”
- **Sanctification is a safeguard to personal happiness and fulfillment**
- **At Salvation you are Sanctified.**

1 Corinthians 6:11, “Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”

- **Salvation is Instantaneous and Progressive**

2 Peter 3:18, “Rather, you must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

NOTE: There is a difference between Purity and Maturity

The Principle of Separation & Dedication

- **The word “sanctify,” “saint,” and “holy” all come from the same Greek root, hagizo or hagiazo (ha-geed-zo).**
- **Two thoughts are prominent in Sanctification:**
 - 1. Separation from evil**
 - 2. Dedication unto God.**

2 Chronicles 29:5, “He said to them, “Listen to me, you Levites! Purify yourselves, and purify the Temple of the Lord, the God of your ancestors. Remove all the defiled things from the sanctuary.”

Titus 2:12, “¹² And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God,...”

2 Corinthians 7:1, “Because we have these promises, dear friends, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit. And let us work toward complete holiness because we fear God.”

Ephesians 2:3-5, “³ All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God’s anger, just like everyone else.” ⁴ But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, ⁵ that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved!)

The Means of Sanctification

- **How does God form us into His image?**

- ✓ **There is a role which only God can fill.**

1 Thessalonians 5:23, “²³ Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again.”

- ✓ **There is an assigned responsibility for Man to fulfill.**

1 John 1:7, “⁷ But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.”

2 Thessalonians 2:13, “¹³ As for us, we can't help but thank God for you, dear brothers and sisters loved by the Lord. We are always thankful that God chose you to be among the first to experience salvation—a salvation that came through the Spirit who makes you holy and through your belief in the truth.”

John 17:17, “Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth.” (NKJV translation: “Sanctify them by your truth”)

Acts 26:18, “¹⁸...to open their eyes, so they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God. Then they will receive forgiveness for their sins and be given a place among God's people, who are set apart by faith in me.”

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24, “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.”

Discussion Questions:

Q: Sanctification is the separation from evil: What are some things that we need to separate ourselves from?

Q: We can see that Sanctification (being made holy) is something that only God can do; but, we have a role to play in that we have to choose to continue this sanctification process (Sanctified at the “New Birth experience” and a continuing sanctification process as we walk toward our heavenly destination). What can you do today to be walking in the light as He is in the light?

