

# **Sanctification**

## **Basic Theology Training**

Who is He?//

Why did He make everything?//

What's God like?//



**New Horizons**  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

## **Pause and Breathe**

Before you start, pause. Take a deep breath. Like Ryan reminded us, this series is building a library of core truths. Don't rush past that. Let this be a sacred moment where you invite the Holy Spirit to stir your heart and shape your mind.

## **Why This Sermon Matters**

This is another message in the Bedrock series, a set of foundational teachings for our church and life groups. Ryan laid out the order beautifully: first, justification (our legal standing before God); then, being born again (our new spiritual birth); and now, sanctification (our lifelong transformation).

Sanctification matters because it explains the "what now" of the Christian life. After you've been justified and born again, how do you live? You live in the process of sanctification — becoming more like Jesus, day by day.

Core Teachings on Sanctification

### **1** Sanctification Is the Ongoing, Supernatural Work of God

Lexham Survey of Theology: "Sanctification is the ongoing supernatural work of God to rescue justified sinners from the disease of sin and to conform them to the image of his Son: holy, Christlike, and empowered to do good works."

#### Reflect:

Are you allowing the Holy Spirit to transform you, or are you trying to change yourself by willpower?

Where have you seen evidence of God changing you already?

### **2** Sin Has Lost Its Power Over You

Romans 6:1-11 (NLT) teaches that we are united with Christ in His death and resurrection. That means we are no longer slaves to sin.

Galatians 2:20 (NLT): "My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me."

Colossians 3:3 (NLT): "For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God."

#### Reflect:

Do you believe that sin no longer has mastery over you?

Where are you still acting like a slave to old patterns instead of walking in new life?

### 3 We Cooperate With God in Holiness

Romans 6:12–14 (NLT) reminds us that sanctification is not passive. We surrender, but we also cooperate.

Philippians 2:12–13 (NLT): "Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him."

#### Reflect:

Where do you need to surrender more fully to God's work?

Are there places you are still making excuses for sin?

### 4 We Become Slaves to Righteousness

Romans 6:15–23 (NLT) teaches that we are slaves to whatever we obey. Sanctification is about becoming "slaves to righteousness" — set apart, holy, devoted to the things of God.

Titus 2:11–12 (NLT): "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."

Matthew 6:24 (NASB): "You cannot serve God and wealth."

#### Reflect:

Are you obeying the voice of sin or the voice of the Spirit?

What "little lions" of sin are you still feeding, excusing, or minimizing?

### **Summary Principles**

- Principle #1: Since we are united with Christ in His death and resurrection, sin has lost its power over us, and we now live for God.
- Principle #2: We must not let sin control us or use our bodies for evil but instead fully surrender to God, living for righteousness and His glory.
- Principle #3: We are slaves to whatever we obey — sin leads to death, but righteousness leads to holiness. Sanctification is yielding to God, resulting in holiness and eternal life in Christ.

### **Dig Deeper Questions**

- Where have you seen the Holy Spirit transform your desires and habits?
- What sins or habits do you still excuse or minimize that God is calling you to surrender?
- How can you better cooperate with the Spirit's work in your sanctification process?
- Where do you need to stop seeing yourself as a victim and start standing in victory over sin?

- How would your life change if you truly lived as a "slave to righteousness" every day?




### **Recommended Next Steps**

- ✓ Read Romans 6-8 and Philippians 2.
- ✓ Study the Church of God (Anderson) resource We Believe on sanctification.
- ✓ Journal specific areas where you sense the Holy Spirit inviting you into deeper surrender.

### **Final Thought**

Sanctification is not just a doctrine — it's your lived-out, daily relationship with Jesus. It's the ongoing transformation that proves the Holy Spirit is alive and active in you. Don't settle for half-hearted Christianity. Step fully into the process. Cooperate. Surrender. And rejoice that you are being shaped into the image of Christ, for God's glory and your eternal joy.

### **Small Group Questions**

- What's the difference between justification and sanctification, and why does it matter?  
 Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 — How does Paul call believers to live out their sanctification?
- How does the Holy Spirit empower us to grow in holiness?  
 Read Galatians 5:16-26 — What does walking by the Spirit practically look like?
- Why is sanctification described as both God's work and our responsibility?  
 Read Philippians 2:12-13 — How do we balance these two truths?
- What are some areas where you've seen clear growth or transformation in your own sanctification journey?
- How can we support one another in the process of sanctification within the church community?