

ERASED

Pastor Bill Bowers | May 6, 2018

Spiritual Growth: My Job or God's Job?

Scripture: Philippians 2:1-18

Sanctification: to make holy; set apart as sacred; to consecrate;
to purify or free from sin

Two Extremes:

- *“And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can’t.”* Romans 7:18 (NLT)
- *“For I am the LORD your God; sanctify yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy.”* Leviticus 11:44a (NRSV)

Four Biblical Truths about Sanctification:

- 1) Sanctification is **normative**, not **optional**.
(Romans 12:2, 1 Thessalonians 4:3, Hebrews 12:14)
- 2) Sanctification is both **an event** and **a process**.
(Philippians 2:13)
- 3) Sanctification is **empowered by God**, not **by us**.
(Romans 12:2)
- 4) Sanctification is for **the sake of others**, not **just our fulfillment**.
(Philippians 2:14)

HOMEGROUP & PERSONAL STUDY QUESTIONS

1. We learned a definition for the word sanctification is, “to make holy; set apart as sacred; to consecrate; to purify or free from sin.” What does this definition mean to you? Can you share practical examples of what being “holy” means to you? How do you express yourself being “free from sin?”.
2. Four Biblical Truths About Sanctification:
 - **Sanctification is normative, not optional.** To be holy and without sin is a very high bar, but we were provided with several Scripture references supporting this idea. What do you think about it? Is it realistic to you? Share your thoughts?
 - **Sanctification is both an event and a process.** How does the process of becoming sanctified work in your life? How do you practice sanctification?
 - **Sanctification is empowered by God, not by us.** Do you think this process is utterly and completely authored and finished by God? Do you have any part in the work of your sanctification? Please give a reason for your position.
 - **Sanctification is for the sake of others, not our own fulfillment.** Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
3. Think of yourself or other people you know. Can you think of a person you would describe as wholly “sanctified?” Without using a name, describe that person’s character traits, devotional practices, etc. that led you to your assessment.
4. Practice this week: 1-3 times this week; at the close of your day, prayerfully ask God, the Holy Spirit, to show you were closely mindful of His presence and working in you. Also, ask God to show you what occasions you may have been distracted from your awareness of His presence. In both cases, ask God to reveal your state of mind and attitude of heart concerning your closeness or distraction toward Him. Thank God for showing you these things and ask His assistance to be more aware the next day.