

Tyson Ziegler

SESSION 3 | GOD'S GOAL: THE CHRIST-CENTERED AIM OF PERSONAL MINISTRY CONTINUED

I. REVIEW: DEFINING TERMS

A. Biblical Counseling

1. Broadly: Biblical counseling occurs through the daily, Christ-centered, and interpersonal care within my various relationships, largely through personal conversations.
 - Heb. 3:13, 10:24
2. Narrowly: Biblical counseling occurs in careful application of God's Word in the concentrated discipleship that all Christians need at various times.
 - Rom. 15:14

B. The Ministry of the Word

1. Scripture reveals God's plan for redemptive history
 - Sinners in need of a Savior find help and hope in their broken condition.
 - Ultimately, God is making all things new through the saving work of Jesus Christ
2. 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Eph. 4:15; Gal. 6:1-2
3. From Creation to Consummation, God's Word was meant to reveal Himself (character, attributes, plan for creation) so that we could experience every aspect of human flourishing He designed us for as those under His care.
4. The Tale of Two Narratives

Ps. 119:130 - The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.

II. TRANSFORMATION: THE PRESENT TENSE WORK OF PROGRESSIVE SANCTIFICATION

A. Sanctification Defined

Powlison: Sanctification is...“the present tense in-working of faith and the out-working of love.”¹

Grudem’s ST: Sanctification is a progressive work of God and man that makes us more and more free from sin and like Christ in our actual lives. (GST, Pg. 746)

Jerry Bridges:

- Definitive Sanctification – a decisive break with, or separation from, sin as a ruling power in the believer’s life.
- Progressive Sanctification – “Warring against the sin that remains in us and putting on Christlike character.”²

III. HOW PROGRESSIVE SANCTIFICATION WORKS

A. The content of change: The good news of redemption in Christ (The power of God to transform)

1. Rom. 1-11→Rom. 12:1-2→Rom. 12:9-21, ff
2. Eph. 1-3→Eph. 4:22-24→Eph. 4:25-6:9
3. Col. 1-2→Col. 3:1-4→Col. 3:5-4:6

“In most of Paul’s letters to churches, sizeable portions of them are given over to rehearsing gospel truths. Repeating the gospel and then showing how it applied to life was Paul’s choice method for ministering to believers, thereby providing a divinely inspired pattern for me to follow when ministering to myself and to other believers.”³

B. The agent of change: The Person of the Holy Spirit (We are never alone in ministry)

1. 2 Cor. 3:3, 18→Being progressively transformed into His likeness
2. 1 Cor. 15:10→Grace-filled effort
3. Col. 1:29→Struggling with all His energy
4. Rom. 15:16→Sanctified by the Holy Spirit

¹ David Powlison, How Does Sanctification Work, pg. 14

² Jerry Bridges, The Gospel for Real Life, pg. 162

³ Milton Vincent, A Gospel Primer, pg. 13

C. The Means of change: God shows his power as weak and needy people help other weak and needy people⇒ Come next week to hear Gary – Do I mention this? Save it til the end?

1. The Word – Ps. 119:93
2. Prayer – Mt. 26:41
3. The people of God – Rom. 1:12

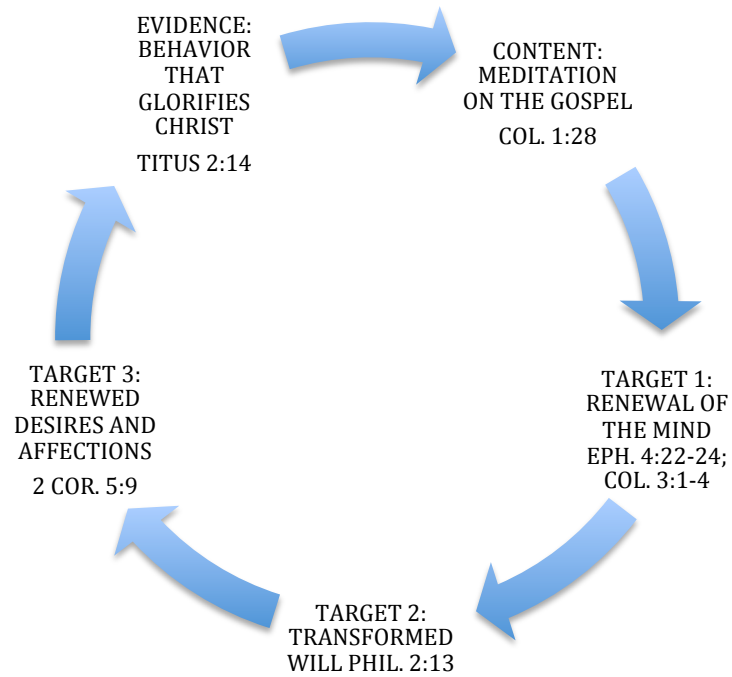
IV. WHAT SANCTIFICATION PRODUCES

In a word: Holiness

A. The target of change: The Inner Man (What our minds believe, What our wills desire)

1. Phil. 2:12-13
2. Eph. 4:22-24
3. Col. 3:1-4
4. Rom. 12:1-2
5. “In sharp contrast (to allowing this present age to mold us into its image) Christians become non-conformists, counter-culturally shaped and transformed by the renewing of the mind. *There is a premium attached to the mind in biblical teaching.*”⁴
6. Consistent meditation on the Gospel produces a renewed mind generating a transformed will leading to hearts filled with new desires and affections.
 - These steps do not occur sequentially (Ref. to Diagram)
 - Produced by the Collaborative work of the Holy Spirit and our effort.
 - a. 1 Cor. 15:10
 - b. Col. 1:29
 - c. Phil. 2:13

⁴ Sinclair Ferguson, Devoted to God, pg. 45



B. The evidence of change: the outer man: New longings and desires. The outer man: The fruit of the Spirit in our character and acts of obedience.

1. Rom. 12:9-21
2. 2 Cor. 3:3, 18
3. Ps. 51

C. The goal of change: Christlike maturity that brings glory to God and prepares us for eternity

1. Rom. 8:29
2. Eph. 4:13
3. Heb. 5:14