

# Christ Our Sanctifier

## Sanctification - what is it?

- ▣ “Sanctify”: to set apart, to make holy, to consecrate, to cleanse or purify
- ▣ Concept of Sanctification in Old Testament
  - Separated from common life or use and dedicated in some way to the service and/or worship of God
    - ▣ i.e. Vessels of the tabernacle, altar, etc.
  - Clean vs. unclean and the Law
  - Continued sanctification very difficult



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## Sanctification - what is it?

### ▣ Sanctification & Jesus

- Jesus turned everything upside-down in regards to holiness and cleanness
  - ▣ Instead of Jesus becoming unclean when he came in contact with unclean things or people, the unclean became clean! (eg. Raising dead, healing touch, etc)
  - ▣ Jesus did not fit the mold of the religious leaders who prided themselves in their own brand of holiness



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## Sanctification - what is it?

### ▣ Sanctification in the New Testament - 2 Types

#### 1. Positional Sanctification

- ▣ Jesus' death completely changed everything when it came to sanctification for God's people
- ▣ John 17:19... "For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified." (set apart to do God's will)
- ▣ 1 Pet 2:9... "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."



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## Sanctification - what is it?

### ▣ Sanctification in the New Testament - 2 Types

#### 2. Process Sanctification

- ▣ The continuing work of the Holy Spirit in the believer to conform him/her into the image of Christ
- ▣ NT - calling/expectation of God's people to live their lives in response to the position freely given in Christ
- ▣ 1 Peter 1:2 "...who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood..." and "Be holy, for I am holy"



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## 1. God's Desired Will

- ▣ Three types of God's will
  1. God's decreed will – what God says will happen
  2. God's desired will – what God desires to happen but may or may not happen on earth
  3. God's directive will – individual and corporate
- ▣ It is God's desired will that you be sanctified
  - 1 Thess 4:1-8



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



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## 1. God's Desired Will

- ▣ It is God's desired will that you be sanctified
  - 1 Thess 4:1-8
- ▣ It is God's desired will you be conformed into the image of Christ – it's our life goal!
  - Romans 8:29  
For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.



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## 2. Spirit-filled Life

- ▣ The result of Christ's work of sanctification is that the Holy Spirit – God Himself – comes to dwell within the believer
  - The Holy Spirit empowers us to live a holy life and to do acts of service to God
  - It is a desire in believers to dive into the deeper life in Christ and please him with our life
  - The struggle and the war within
    - ▣ Romans 7
    - ▣ Galatians 5:16-25





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<sup>13</sup> You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. <sup>14</sup> For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” <sup>15</sup> If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. <sup>16</sup> So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.



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<sup>19</sup> The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; <sup>20</sup> idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions <sup>21</sup> and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

<sup>24</sup> Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.



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## 3. Jesus is our Sanctification

“The heart and soul of the whole matter is seeing that Jesus is himself our sanctification. We must not look at it as some great mountain peak where he is standing and which we have to climb, but between us and it there are almost inaccessible cliffs to ascend before we can stand at his side.”

– A. B. Simpson



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## 3. Jesus is our Sanctification

- ▣ We can't do it on our own - sanctification is a gift that cannot be earned
  - 2 misunderstandings in regards to sanctification
    - ▣ Religion - try harder resulting in pride or despair
    - ▣ Worldliness - abusing God's grace as a license to sin
- ▣ Coming to the end of ourselves - surrender
- ▣ Orienting our lives around cross and Bible
  - Seek first the kingdom of heaven...
  - The wise builder



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2 things you need to take from this sermon...

1. Through Christ's work on the cross, you have been sanctified.
  - 1 Cor 1:30... "It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption."
2. God desires us to live sanctified lives
  - Phil 1:6... "being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."



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- ▣ Do you understand that as a believer you have been set apart, sanctified, and adopted into God's family?
- ▣ Is your life centered in Christ and on Christ?
  - How can you tell? What evidence is there in your life that your life goal really is to be conformed into the image of Christ?
- ▣ Is Jesus enough for you or do you expect more?

