

North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

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3/29/16 - The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification - Part
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Humility and the Supernatural Life

It's only that person with a humble attitude of surrender that receives the utmost grace of God, in his experience. It's the humble person that lives by faith (Ro 1:17), making that life righteous in the eyes of God (for every perfect gift is from above - Jas 1:17).

Three Persons, One Godhead

It's impossible for the human mind to fully articulate the Trinity. Faith strives in the absence of human comprehension. (Mt 28:19; 2Co 13:14; 1Pe 1:2)

Supernatural Faith

It's actually good that you can't "figure out" the supernatural (e.g., the Trinity). This "failure" forces faith's hand in you. Faith must be tested in a believer for it to consummate the confidence necessary to persevere (ala 1Pe 1:7 - the "proof of your faith").

Supernatural Worship - Jn 4:24

Fellowship with the Father is through Christ (ala "in truth"). This is assured at salvation, but continues as the basis for sanctification. At salvation, a man's human spirit is made so that he can comprehend spiritually appraised things (ala "in spirit"). This is not possible for unregenerate man (1Co 2:14).

Self-Sanctification

True faith is a surrender, in total recognition of our own inability to be spiritual, to "figure God out". The self-sanctifier puts God in a box via human rationalism, then makes his choices about that perversion of God (which is really a different god).

Frustrating Sanctification

Until you surrender, your flesh is literally standing in the way, blocking your view of God. Surrender means living the Gospel reality, enjoying the truth of our position in Christ - this becomes our sanctification!

This is a believer living in the victory and reality of Jesus Christ resurrected. THAT becomes our sanctification; that daily, dynamic way of thinking with Christ.

Sanctification Simplified

Sanctification is a state of being, not a series of check boxes. "Being" implies doing; however, the opposite is not true. Being in love, grateful, hopeful, confident, etc...these are the essence of sanctification (cp Gal 5:22-23 - the fruit of the Spirit).

Sanctification Simplified

If the Holy Spirit is the "host" of the spiritual life, being transcendent (huperballo), then His fruit in believers must also be transcendent. We don't "do" spiritual things, we "are" them...our deeds are merely the evidence.

Sanctification Simplified

If we are to understand true sanctification, we must understand that it cannot be achieved in the absence of a grateful heart. The Cross is the mainstay of a believer's gratitude.

Sanctification Is Purifying Our Motivations

Testing by fire burns off impurities (1Pe 1:6-9).

1Pe 1:6-9

Peter's saying that in order to enjoy the benefits of "being" sanctified, it is God's good intention to "burn off" the impurities in you...the remnants or vestiges of sin, so to speak...which really is an issue of NOT trying to dress up the piggy...but rather change your perspective about it's place in your life...it's about you "being" someone different.

"Treasures" - from Ivory Palaces

by Martha Snell Nicholson

Drinking Cups

God fills our cups, purifying the contents as he sanctifies us (removing the slag), and we drink from it throughout our daily lives. (cp Mk 10:38-39; Jn 18:11; 1Co 10:21)

"the cup that I drink"

Jesus was talking about suffering and even death. No one has ever been sanctified to the degree He was, which means that suffering is a definite part of sanctification. We must drink that which God places in our cups.

If we ACCEPT God's cups for us, and if we drink His Word, we will be sanctified and purified that much more beautifully. Accepting our lots in life, for example, gives us freedom in our souls, and therefore sanctification.

Ecc 5:18-20 NIV

This is what I have observed to be good: that it is appropriate for a person to eat, to drink and to find satisfaction in their toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given them-for this is their lot. Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil-this is a gift of God. They seldom reflect on the days of their life, because God keeps them occupied with gladness of heart.

This is part of our sanctification; being content with God's lot for our lives. Not trying to change our condition to find happiness, but to find happiness in God,

allowing Him to change our perspective, and therefore our happiness. 1Co
7:17-24

Herein lies contentment...

To be able to sit on the floor, in the corner of your room, maybe only with a can of beans to eat, but with a small light and your Bible, basking in the glory of God's Word. (take that Satan!)

1Pe 2:2-3 [NLT]

Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness.

The Apostate

Logically, the person who isn't saved isn't interested in being sanctified.