

The Christian Lives a Sanctified Life

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Sanctification Study Outline

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Significance: Importance of the Topic

- “...We are standing upon the very borders of the eternal world...” (Mind, Character and Personality, Vol. 1, {1MCP}, 110.3). It is time to make sanctification of body, soul and spirit a, daily, practical matter. It is time to move beyond discussion of sanctification to daily, practical godliness. Like “...**Enoch**..., [who] trained his mind to devotion [and] to love purity... and [who] **bore the impress of the divine**” (Testimonies for the Church, Volume 2, {2T}, 122.1), **we too** “...**may live in the pure air of heaven... [and] walk in a holier atmosphere...**” (Steps to Christ, {SC}, 99.2). Are you ready?

Significance: Importance of the Topic Cont'd

- “Many today **claim to obey the commandments of God, but they have not the love of God in their hearts to flow forth to others.** ...They have pledged themselves to receive and obey the word of God, [and] to give themselves to God’s service, but they do not do this. **In profession they claim to be sons [and daughters] of God, [‘...holding a form of godliness...’ (2 Tim 3:5, NASB)], but in life and character they deny the relationship. They do not surrender the will to God.** They are living a lie” (Christ’s Object Lessons, {COL}, 279.1). Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me... (Pss 139:23); “purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me and I will be whiter than snow” (Pss 51:7, NLT). Please do this work in me!

Laodicea's Dilemma

- “...Many... do not understand the work of sanctification” (Testimonies for the Church, Volume 2, {2T} 472.1). Many are unaware that “...we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh” (2 Cor 4:11, NASB); that Christ can live in and through us (Gal 2:20) so that we are emptied of our “... own righteousness...” (Php 3:9), which is filthy (Isa 64:6), so that we can receive the righteousness of Christ (Isa 54:17 & Rom 3:22), which brings “...glory and praise [to] God” (Php 1:11). “Today a large part of those who compose our congregations are dead in trespasses and sins. ...They have... listened to the most solemn soul-stirring truths, but have not put them [into] practice” (Counsels for the Church,{CCh}, 67.3). Am I in that group of “...hearers only, deceiving... [myself] (Jam 1:22)? If so, convict me that “...it is sin to know what... to do and then not do it” (Jam 4:17, NLT).

God's Policy on Sanctification

- “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth” (John 17:17, NKJV). Our sanctification is the will God (1 Thes 4:3), “and the very God of peace sanctify you wholly... [so that] ...spirit, ...soul and body [is] preserved blameless unto the coming of... Jesus Christ” (1 Thes 5:23). We must “pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord” (Heb 12:14, NKJV). “...As He who called [us] is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct” (1 Pet 1:15, NKJV). We must live “in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our [lives]” (Luke 1:75, NKJV), as “...we cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God” (2 Cor 7:1, NKJV). And God will “...establish [our] hearts blameless in holiness...” (1 Thes 3:13, NKJV) “for... [He called] us... in holiness (1 Thes 4:7, NKJV), even disciplining us “...so that we might share in His holiness” (Heb 12:10, NLT).

Sanctification Defined

- “Sanctification... is a **continual growth in grace**” (CCh, 51.2), “... the result of **constantly dying to sin**, [on a daily basis (1 Cor 15:31)], and **constantly living for Christ**. [This pattern of] ...lifelong obedience” (The Acts of the Apostles, {AA}, 560.3) produces “...**entire conformity to the will of our Father**... in heaven.... And [since] the will of God is expressed in His holy law; [therefore], ...**keeping... all the commandments of God** is sanctification” (Selected Messages, Book 3, {3SM}, 204.2). But to keep the commandments, we must love Jesus (John 14:15), a condition that is only met when the Holy Spirit sheds the love of God in our hearts (Rom 5:5). “Let none deceive themselves... that God will pardon and bless them while they are trampling upon one of His requirements” (CCh, 51.4). “...The law is holy...” (Rom 7:12).

Process of Sanctification

- “...Sanctification is a progressive work; it is not attained to in an hour or a day, and then maintained without any special effort on our part” (2T 472.1). “Sanctification is... the work of... a lifetime. ...It is only by long, persevering effort, sore discipline, and stern conflict that we shall overcome” (AA, 560.3). “Our sanctification is the work of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. It is the fulfillment of the covenant that God has made with those who bind themselves up with Him, to stand with Him, with His Son, and with His Spirit in holy fellowship” (S.D.A Bible Commentary, Vol. 7A. 442.3) as we love and obey God, and the Godhead takes up permanent residence in us (John 14:23).

Process of Sanctification Cont'd

- “By constantly looking to and patterning after Christ as our personal Savior, we shall grow up into Him in all things. Our faith will grow, our conscience will be [made holy]. We will more and more become like Christ in all our works and words” (3SM, 204.4). “We may close every door to impure imaginings and unholy thoughts by lifting the soul into the presence of God through sincere prayer” (SC, 99.2). “Let the soul be drawn out and upward, that God may grant us a breath of the heavenly atmosphere” (SC, 99.4). “Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth, for... your life is... with Christ” (Col 3:2).₉

False Sanctification

- “...An exultant feeling is no evidence of sanctification. The assertion, ‘I am saved, I am saved,’ does not prove that the soul is saved or sanctified” (Selected Messages, Book 3 {3SM}, 203.3). “Sanctification means very much more than a flight of feeling” (3SM 204.1). “Sanctification... is not gained by a happy flight of feeling...” (AA, 560.3). “Excitement is not sanctification” (3SM 204.2). **“There is no Bible sanctification for those who cast... part of the truth behind them”** (Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 1, {1T}, 338.3). Failure to walk in the truth that we know leads us into darkness (John 12:35); we fall back into “...the power of darkness...” from which we were previously delivered (Col 1:13).

Genuine Sanctification

- “...Walk while [you] have the light...” (John 12:35); “...walk in the light...” (1 John 1:7). “A solemn responsibility rests upon those who know the truth, that **all their works shall correspond with their faith** and that their **lives shall be refined** and [holy]...” (Counsels on Health, {CH}, 128.2). “...**Sanctification is** not merely a theory, an emotion, or a form of words, but **a living, active principle, entering into the everyday life**” (Temperance, {Te}, 19.4).

Genuine Sanctification Cont'd

- “By beholding and imitating [Christ’s] life, we shall become renewed in His image. The glory of heaven will shine in our lives and be reflected upon others. [Such was the case ‘...when Moses came down from mount Sinai...’ (Exo 34:29), after spending time in the presence of ‘...the glory of the Lord...’ (Exo 24:16)]. At the throne of grace we are to find the help we need to enable us to live thus. This is genuine sanctification...” (Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, {5T}, 306.3). What an opportunity we have to so live that the glory of God will be reflected in our lives! Are you ready?

An Exemplar of True Sanctification

- “In the life of the disciple John, true sanctification [was] exemplified. ...Day by day, in contrast with his own violent spirit, he beheld the tenderness and forbearance of Jesus, and heard His lessons of humility and patience. Day by day his heart was drawn out to Christ, until he lost sight of self in love for his Master. The power and tenderness, the majesty and meekness, the strength and patience that he saw in the daily life of the Son of God, filled his soul with admiration. He yielded his resentful, ambitious temper to the molding power of Christ, and divine love wrought in him a transformation of character” (AA, 557.1). There is hope for all who are constantly beholding Christ and yielding to His power! 13

Proof of Sanctification

- “The nearer we come to Jesus, and the more clearly we discern the purity of His character, the more clearly shall we see the exceeding sinfulness of sin, and the less shall we feel like exalting ourselves. [Such was the case of Isaiah, who beheld God in vision (Isaiah 6:1-4) and exclaimed: Woe is me! For I am a man of unclean lips... (Isaiah 6:5)]. There will be a continual reaching out of the soul after God, a continual, earnest, heartbreaking confession of sin and humbling of the heart before Him. At every advance step in our Christian experience our repentance will deepen” (AA, 561.2). Braggadocio ends¹⁴

Effect of Sanctification

- “As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God” (Pss 42:1, NKJV). “O God, you are my God; I earnestly search for you. My soul thirsts for you...” (Pss 63:1, NLT); “...My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God” (Pss 84:2, NKJV). And God offered this assurance: “And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart” (Jer 29:13, NKJV). “We may keep so near to God that **in every unexpected trial our thoughts will turn to Him as naturally as the flower turns to the sun**” (SC, 99.4). “**Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good**” (Rom 12:21). “**When brought into contact with evil, it is not necessary to be overcome of evil. Christ has made it possible for the character to be fragrant with good**” (The Adventist Home, {AH}, 177.3).

Effect of Sanctification

- “Keep your wants, your joys, your sorrows, your cares, and your fears before God. ...He rules over all the affairs of the universe. [‘...There is nothing too hard for {the Lord}’ (Jer 32:17); ‘the Lord’s hand is not shortened that it cannot save...’ (Isa 59:1)]. ...No calamity can befall the least of His children, no anxiety harass the soul, no joy cheer, no sincere prayer escape the lips, of which our heavenly Father is unobservant, or in which He takes no immediate interest. ‘He [heals] the broken in heart and [binds] up their wounds’” (Pss 147:3 in SC, 100.1). “To all who mourn in Israel, He will give a crown of beauty for ashes, a joyous blessing... [for] mourning, festive praise... [for] despair...” (Isa 61:3, NLT). “...Difficulties... [are an opportunity to] bring us to the audience chamber of the Most High to seek counsel of the One who is infinite in wisdom” (Selected Messages, Book 2, {2SM}, 157.3).

Sanctification & The Daily Experience

- “You are elected to wear the yoke, [‘...instrument of service...’ (Christian Service, {ChS}, 232.4)], of Christ, to bear His burden [Luke 4:18-19; Acts 10:38 & John 14:12], to lift His cross. [[To follow Christ](#)], you must say no to yourself; lift up the cross appointed to you and follow Christ, (Matt 16:24, NIRV)].
...Christians are chosen to sanctification through obedience to the truth. They are elected to bear the cross, if they would wear the crown” (Christian Education, {CE}, 118.1). In view of these things, can you honestly say: “Henceforth, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness...” (2 Tim 4:8).

Sanctification & Stature in Christ

- “Day by day [we] are to build... characters in accordance with Christ’s directions. [He says to us: ...‘This is the way, walk... in it...’ (Isa 30:21). And we] ...are to abide in Him [John 15:5], constantly exercising faith in Him [Heb 11:1]. Thus [we] will grow up to the full stature of men and women in Christ—wholesome, cheerful [and] grateful Christians” (CCh, 67.4). Am I growing?

Sanctification & Personal Inventory

- “Brethren... who have long claimed to believe the truth..., **‘Have your practices been in harmony with the light, the privileges and the opportunities granted you of heaven’?** The Sun of Righteousness has risen upon the church, and it is... the privilege of every soul to make advancement. ...If all who claim to believe the truth had made the most of their ability and opportunities **to learn and to do**, they would have become strong in Christ. ...If they had wholly consecrated themselves to God, they would have become efficient workers for the heavenly Master” (CCh, 68.1). Are you, am I efficient workers for the heavenly Master or are we just slothful servants?

Sanctification & Institutional Inventory

- “...All the sermons that have been preached have not developed a large class of self-denying workers. ...The churches are withering... because they have failed to use their talents in diffusing light. Careful instruction should be given... that all may put their light to practical use” (CCh, 68.2). “Just as soon as a church is organized, let the minister set the members at work. Let the minister devote more... time to educating than to preaching” (CCh, 69.1). “The greatest help that can be given our people is to teach them to work for God, and to depend on Him, not on the ministers. Let them learn to work as Christ worked” (CCh, 69.2). “Let the teachers lead the way in working among the people...” (CCh, 69.3).

Sanctification Culminates in Reformation

- “Let all set their hearts and minds to become intelligent in regard to the work for this time, qualifying themselves to do that for which they are best adapted” (CCh, 69.5).
“That which is needed now for the up building of our churches is the... work of wise laborers to discern and develop talent, in the church..., for the Master’s service” (CCh, 69.6). “Heavenly angels have long been waiting for ...the members of the church to co-operate with them in the great work to be done. They are waiting for you” (CCh, 69.7). Cease procrastination! It’s time to act!

Sanctification Culminates in Reformation

- Get out of the business of mindless adherence to religious rituals. “The very best work you can do is to come as close to the people as possible, and reveal in life and character the work wrought upon your own souls by the Spirit of God” (The Medical Missionary, {MMis}, May 1, 1891, par. 4). “Work for your own soul until self is subdued, until Christ recognizes His image in you. The most impressive lesson that you can give to those whom you educate, will be that of a Christ-like character” (MMis, May 1, 1891, par. 6).

Sanctification Culminates in Reformation

- “The Christian’s life will testify that [s/he] is governed by other laws than those which the world obeys—laws of a higher order than those that control the lovers of the world. The will of God, our Creator, is to be made manifest in us, not only in the name we bear, but in our life of self-denial. We are to give evidence that we are influenced and controlled by unselfish principles. All our purposes and pursuits should stand in distinct contrast to the selfishness of the world” (MMis, June 1, 1891, par. 7).

Sanctification Culminates in Reformation

- And after reformation has occurred, “If Christians were to act in concert [as the early disciples of Christ did in Acts 2:1], moving forward as one, under the direction of one Power, for the accomplishment of one purpose, they would move the world” (CCh, 69.8). “God does not lightly regard a neglect of the faithful performance of the work which He has left His servants to do. Enduring energy and a constant reliance upon God are lacking in many who are laboring in the ministry” (2T, 502.2).

Conclusions

- We have a choice in the matter of sanctification. The brother of Jesus summarized that choice this way: “...**Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves**” (James 1:22). And based on the choice we make, we will either live to testify of Jeremiah 8:20—“The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved,” or Isaiah 25:9—“...This is our God, we have waited for Him, and He will save us...” What are you going to do about your sanctification? It is time for you to “...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling” (Php 2:12). “Submit... to God...” (Jam 4:7). 25