

**Subject: *The Sure Way to Holiness***

**Subject: *2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1***

I am preaching on the subject of sanctification.

- Sanctification is the process of a Christian becoming more like Christ.
- It is a lifelong process. Justification and glorification are both one-time events, but sanctification is a process.
- It is a process in which God is involved and we are involved. Justification and glorification are both works of God alone (monergism), but sanctification is a work in which God and the believer work together (synergism). In this message we are going to focus on our involvement.
- Sanctification must be intentional. It is never accidental. We must focus on doing our part to become more like Christ.
- Sanctification is simple. An alternate title for this message is “The Simplicity of Sanctification.” It is not rocket science. I want you to think about the simplicity of these statements:

***1 Peter 1:15-16***<sup>15</sup> *But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;*<sup>16</sup> *Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*

***Galatians 5:16*** *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.*

***Ephesians 4:17-24***<sup>17</sup> *This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,*<sup>18</sup> *Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:*<sup>19</sup> *Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.*<sup>20</sup> *But ye have not so learned Christ;*<sup>21</sup> *If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:*<sup>22</sup> *That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;*<sup>23</sup> *And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;*<sup>24</sup> *And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*

Look again at our text in 2 Corinthians 6 and 7.

***2 Corinthians 6:17*** *Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.*

***2 Corinthians 7:1*** *Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

Not only do we see the simplicity of sanctification in these verses, but we see the responsibility of sanctification. Every Christian is responsible for becoming more like Christ.

What is the sure way to holiness? What must we do to become more like Christ?

### **1. We must spend time in God's Word**

We must know, believe, and obey Scripture. In our text Paul refers to the Scriptures as the key to holiness.

**John 17:17** Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

**Ephesians 5:25-27** <sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; <sup>26</sup> That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, <sup>27</sup> That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

**Psalms 119:9** Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

D. L. Moody said, “Sin will keep you from the Bible or the Bible will keep you from sin.”

We must read it, study it, memorize it, and meditate on it.

**Psalms 119:11** Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

## **2. We must spend time in prayer**

Prayer doesn't change God; it changes us. We should use the Model Prayer as our guide.

**Matthew 6:9-13** <sup>9</sup> After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. <sup>10</sup> Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread. <sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. <sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

## **3. We must spend time with committed Christians**

We need to worship together, study God's Word together, pray together, and fellowship with one another.

**Acts 2:42** And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Sanctification must be individual and personal, but it must also be corporate and relational.

**Psalms 119:63** I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts.

**Proverbs 13:20** He that walketh with wise men shall be wise...

## **4. We must separate ourselves from unbelievers and worldly people**

Look at our text again (1 Cor. 6:14-18).

**James 4:4** Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.