



7-23-17 Sermon Discussion Guide “Sanctification”



Context

Throughout this summer we are talking about words and ideas that we often hear in church but rarely define. This summer provides a chance to hit “pause” and reflect upon these ideas, their importance, and their impact upon life. This series began by asking the question, “What is theology?” Since then, we’ve been discussing God – the nature of the Trinity, God’s will, how God created all things and acts within creation. Last week we looked at justification. This week we consider sanctification – how do we become more like Jesus in response to the grace we’ve been given?

Checking In

Since the last time your group has met, how have each of you experienced God at work? What have you celebrated? What have you mourned?

Introduction

What behaviors define the Christian life? How does a life following Jesus look different than a life lived for oneself? These are some of the questions that deal with sanctification.

Sanctification is the process by which we become more like Christ. This is an ongoing, life-long journey. Some days we make more progress than others. We will never be completely finished with this process this side of heaven. Justification is about how a person becomes a Christian – sanctification is about how a person grows in the Christian life. Justification is about God’s gracious action towards us while sanctification is about our obedient action toward God.

Justification tells us we are God’s adopted children while sanctification tells us how to live as God’s children.

Discussing the Text – Romans 6:1-14, Philippians 1:6, 1 Peter 1:14-16

1. 1 Peter 1:14-16 quotes Leviticus 19, saying that we ought to be holy because God is holy. What does it mean to be holy?
2. Paul says in Romans 6:7 that we have been freed from sin. Does this mean that we’ll never sin again once we become Christians?
3. Before Romans, 6, Paul discusses how we are justified, made right with God through God’s grace, by what Jesus did on the cross. Since we are saved by God’s grace, do our actions mean anything to God? What does Romans 6:1-2 say about this?
4. If we keep sinning after we have become a Christian, can we lose our salvation? How might Philippians 1:6 help us answer this question?
5. Romans 6:14 says sin will have no dominion over us because of God’s grace. What does that mean about our Christian faith if we *do* continue to sin?

So what?

1. Is it possible to sin so much that we are no longer a Christian? What does Romans 7 say?
2. Are we expected to live a perfect life once we become a Christian? Why or why not?
3. Are we ever fully sanctified in this life? Why or why not? How can you tell?
4. If sanctification is the process of becoming holy, and to be holy is to be set apart, what does a sanctified life look like?
5. How can we help each other grow in our sanctification?
6. What specific ways are you feeling called to be more sanctified, to become more like Jesus?

Prayer

Share something you for which you are thankful and/or something for which you need support. Invite the group to ask God to help them become more like Jesus this week.