

10. Walking with God

“Sanctification”

Definition: “Set apart” from sin

“Become holy”

Became Christians, we were in a sense “babes in Christ”

Just as babies are to grow into mature adulthood

So also we are to grow spiritually into spiritual maturity

What does spiritual growth look like?

More and more we look like Jesus, and less and less like the sinful world

Our attitudes/behavior start to reflect the attitudes/behavior of Jesus

Lives start to show the fruits of the Spirit

This is God’s will for your life: “Sanctification” (1 Thess 4:3).

Romans 12:1-2 — sanctification

Practical question of sanctification:

Have you started the process of growth into spiritual maturity?

Has your life started to change?

Do you look more like Jesus and less like the world?

To help us grow, God will allow difficult circumstances into your life

Accidents, sickness, unemployment — persecution for your new faith

Will most likely begin with your friends not understanding why you changed

Suffer at work — passed over for promotion

Neighbors and perhaps even family might ostracize you

Did I do something wrong?

No, you did something right — 2 Tim 3:12

If world hates master — Jesus says — will hate his disciples

God wants to do something right — grow in our sanctification/holiness

When times are good, we rarely grow in our faith

We grow best during times of stress and hurt and challenge

Genuineness of my faith is being tested and refined — 1 Peter 1:6-7

Can produce a Christ-like character — Rom 5:3-5; James 1:2-4

When difficult times come, how will you respond?

The temptation will be to compartmentalize

Okay to live with some sin in some areas of our lives *if it helps us avoids pain*

Life is a *patchwork quilt*

1. Compartmentalize your time

This square represents Sunday morning — God, you should be happy

Sunday afternoon, and all other days, belong to me to do whatever

2. Compartmentalize money

Throw our loose change at God — not enough to change our lifestyle

Keep bulk of “my” money for my entertainment/wants — stewards — account

3. Compartmentalize our affections

I will love God in this and this situation

But I am going to keep visiting porn sites and molesting little girls/boys

Many others areas

Compartmentalize our tongue — swear, but critical/judgmental

I wish this were not true

But it is — all Christians, sooner or later, will be met with this challenge

Keep parts of themselves back from God — shut doors to certain rooms in heart

Refuse to fully grow into holiness / sanctification

Not the deal we made with Jesus — Savior and Lord

Jesus wants all of us — “followers; disciples” — no part-time disciples

“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me” (Mark 8:34).

“Any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:33)

Gal 2:20

Rom 12:1-2 makes no allowance for a patchwork quilt life

What will happen if we compartmentalize our lives?

Consequences of refusing to open the doors to *all* the rooms in our life?

1. Harm your relationship with God — something between God and you

Guilt, depression — remove his peace/blessing — eventually disciplined

Stop downward spiral whenever you want it to: repent — confess and turn

Sufficiency of the cross — joy and freedom

2. If continues, eventually will lose the assurance of salvation — confidence, child

Saved by grace through faith — we are changed — live in a changed way

If your life does not change (continue), eventually you must question whether your conversion real

Assurance does not come from a single event — raised hand or saying a prayer

Assurance is tied up with the work of the HS — our changed life

Without change there is no assurance — 1 John 2:3-6

Laodiceans (Rev 3:15-16, 19) — compartmentalize (lukewarm)

3. For those who give up: “warning passages”

Made profession — “Get out of hell free” card — live any way they want

“If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples” (John 8:31)

“But the one who endures to the end will be saved” (Matthew 24:13).

You and I have been reconciled, “if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard” (Col 1:23).

“For we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end” (Hebrews 3:14).

Jesus is Savior and Lord

Calls us to grow up into sanctification — look less like world and more like his Son

Process — one step at a time

When we fail — repentance and forgiveness

Through the HS, gives strength to obey

Calls us to present our bodies ... — this is the will of God for your life

Question of sanctification

Is your life changing? Is it beginning / continuing to change?

Fully-devoted disciple of Jesus Christ