

## **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 avoid 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