

Sanctification (Part 2)

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study
John 17:17-19

*“The gospel doesn’t just save us **from** something — it saves us **to** holiness and mission.” -Voddie Baucham*

There are at least three reasons given in this passage why Jesus, the Son of God, is praying to the Father for **our** sanctification:

1. **SAFETY:** Sanctification is how God keeps us from evil and the world (**John 17:14-16, 17**)
2. **SERVICE:** Sanctification is necessary because of the task He has given us (**John 17:18**)
3. **SECURITY:** Sanctification is essential for the true believer’s fulfillment of God’s purpose (**John 17:19**).
 - a. **Hebrews 2:10; See also: Hebrews 5:7-10**

I. The Lord’s Method of Evangelizing in the World

A. Evangelism begins with sanctification by the Word of God.

1. Sanctification of a believer is the result of agreement & alignment with the Word of God
 - a) Sanctification is a faith issue (**Romans 10:17**).
 - b) Sanctification is an “affection” issue (**Colossians 3:1-2, 1 John 2:15-17**).
 - c) Sanctification moves a believer beyond mere “restraint” of sin to a hatred of sin.
 - (1) Sin is not neutral or static; it is either weakening or strengthening. John Owen (1656), *“Be killing sin, or sin will be killing you.”*
 - (2) Mortification of sin is a daily, lifelong duty (**Romans 8:13, Colossians 3:5**)
 - (3) Mortification is the required work of the believer; it is impossible for unbelievers and is only empowered by God’s Spirit.
 - (a) **It is not self-discipline**
 - (b) **It is not moral grit**
 - (4) Without Mortification sin will:
 - (a) **Darken our assurance of salvation.**
 - (b) **Weaken our spiritual resolve.**
 - (c) **Disrupt our communion with God**
 - (d) **Harden our conscience.**
2. A believer’s life should substantiate the message of the gospel, **1 Peter 2:11–12**, *Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. 12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.*

B. The message to be delivered in evangelism is an offense to the world

1. **1 Peter 2:8**, *“A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.*
2. **Galatians 5:11**, *But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed.* (see also Matthew 11:6, Luke 2:34, John 6:60-66)
3. Paul declared about the gospel in **Romans 1:16**, *“I am not ashamed...”*
4. Modern methods and methods through the ages have diluted this message to remove the offense. The world desires a message that is attractive, requires a person to have salesmanship abilities to evangelize, and provides all manner of training and instruction on “how” to evangelize.

II. Sanctification is the Will of God for You (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8)

A. Every true believer is at war, whether He admits it or not.

1. There is no neutral position. Every man is either actively fighting sin or quietly being shaped by it.
 - a) **Romans 8:13**, *For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*
 - b) **Colossians 3:5**, *Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.*
 - c) **1 Corinthians 16:13**, *Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.*

-
- d) **1 Peter 5:8**, *Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*
 - 2. It is not enough to “feel bad” about sin; we must be trained to fight (**Ephesians 6:10-20**).
 - a) Passivity equals surrender; simple drifting is defeat.
 - b) Saying, “I am doing fine,” is often self-deception.
 - B. Self-Control & Discipline is Not Mortification (mortification – “put to death”)
 - 1. Don’t mistake discipline for holiness. A person can control their behavior, manage their appearance, suppress impulses, and still not be putting to death sin in their life.
 - a) **Galatians 5:16–17**, *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.*
 - b) **Colossians 2:21–23**, *“Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch” 22 (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? 23 These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.*
 - c) **Zechariah 4:6**, *Then he said to me, “This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts.*
 - 2. John Owen, *“A man may have great restraints upon his lusts from education, convictions, or prudence, and yet be a stranger to mortification.”*
 - a) White-knuckling is not victory.
 - b) Anger “under control” is still anger
 - c) Avoidance without heart change is not freedom.
 - C. A Besetting Sin is Usually a ‘Respectable’ Sin.
 - 1. For believers, besetting sins are often rationalized, socially tolerated, and functionally rewarded.
 - a) **Hebrews 12:1**, *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,*
 - b) **Psalm 19:12**, *Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults.*
 - c) **James 1:14–15**, *But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.*
 - 2. Common Besetting Sins. John Owen, *“That which men spare is that which will destroy them.”*
 - a) Pride disguised as confidence.
 - b) Anger disguised as leadership.
 - c) Control disguised as responsibility.
 - d) Lust disguised as stress relief.
 - e) Workaholism disguised as providing.
 - f) Silence disguised as peacekeeping.
 - D. Sin Must be Starved in order Kill it.
 - 1. Sin will refuse to die when it is fed occasionally.
 - a) **Romans 13:14**, *But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.*
 - b) **Matthew 5:29–30**, *If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.*
 - c) **Proverbs 4:23**, *Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.*
 - E. Mortification is enabled by Fellowship, Not Isolation
 - 1. God never intended for sheep to dwell in isolation; isolation leads to death for sheep.
 - a) **Hebrews 3:12–13**, *Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. 13 But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.*
 - b) See also **Ecclesiastes 4:9–10**; **James 5:16**
-