

Introduction:

- Sanctification has to do with the renewal of the whole person.
- *“Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again.”* (1 Thessalonians 5:23, NLT)
- This sanctification has to do with the whole man. It begins and salvation and continues with us in our walk with the Lord.

I. Sanctification is Renewal

- A. We saw last week that sanctification begins at salvation and continues throughout this life. As it continues we are being made new in every area of our lives.
1. *“but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit.”* (Titus 3:5, NLT)
 - a) New birth is regeneration. We have already covered that.
 - b) New life (NLT); Renewal (NKJV). Greek word is anakainosis, meaning new again or renewal.
 2. *“that you put off, concerning your former conduct, ... and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”* (Ephesians 4:22–24, NKJV) This refers to the new life the new nature of righteousness and holiness. It is the work of the Holy Spirit in the believer.
- B. Renewal points to something that is ongoing.
1. It is a day-by-day process.
 2. Col 3:9-10 reflects this thought: *“Don’t lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him.”* (Colossians 3:9–10, NLT). Literally reads, “Being renewed” implying an ongoing process.
 3. Romans 12:2 Be transformed by the renewing. Be transformed/changed by the continual/ongoing renewal of you mind.
 4. In this life of ‘death’, we will always be contending to stay alive and renewed.

II. Sanctification is for the Whole Man

- A. Our key passage tonight says, *“Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again.”* (1 Thessalonians 5:23, NLT)
1. May God make you holy. An event that happened in the past but with ongoing affect.
 2. And, may this work affect you in three areas of your life—Spirit, Soul and body. May what God did on your inside, be seen in your thought life and obvious in your body. May what God did on your inside be seen all the way to your outside.
 3. May it touch your entire being! It is not enough to let this Gospel just affect your spirit. It must affect the entirety of your being...spirit, soul and body.
- B. Your Spirit. Your spirit is the essence of who you are. It is the deepest dimension of who you are. It is the part of a man that God so richly encounters. But through sin, man has shut God out and some have darkened themselves deeply.
1. In Christ, that dead man has been made alive/ made new. The new spirit of a man gets its expression by working through the soul and body of that man. Because the soul needs to be renewed, it is influenced by the spirit. It can also influence the spirit of man by deadening the voice of God. Therefore, we need purification of our minds.

- a) *“Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”* (2 Corinthians 7:1, NKJV)
- b) There is much in us that needs cleansed. Pride, bitterness, anger, lust etc. that which has to do with the old man. Eph 4:31-32.
2. Many times, the scripture uses the word spirit and heart interchangeably.
 - a) Ie. Ps 51:10 *‘Create in me a clean heart...renew a right spirit within me.’*
 - b) Even in 1 Thes 3:12-13, Paul prays may the Lord establish your hearts blameless in holiness.
3. Conscience is another word that refers to our spirit. We say a person has a troubled heart when we are speaking of their trouble conscience/conviction is what it really is.
 - a) *“let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ’s blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.”* (Hebrews 10:22, NLT)
 - b) So spirit, heart, conscience all refer to the spirit of man that is made new at salvation.
- C. Your Soul. The soul is the inner life of a man through which the spirit of a man gets expression. The soul is made up of the mind, will and emotions/intellect, choices, and feelings. Sin has marred man’s soul. It has darkened it. When we get saved/born again, the mind is not positioned to ponder the things of God. We begin to make ‘God’ choices, and to enjoy Him.
 1. The mind. Sanctification has a big part to do with the ongoing renewal of the mind.
 - a) *“And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.”* (Romans 12:1–2, NLT)
 - b) In 2 Cor 10:5 we are instructed to take captive every disobedient thought, to obey Christ. As a believer, we may have the mind of Christ but be far from subjecting all of our thoughts to him.
 - c) In our culture, it is not Christ-like, so we have to work all the harder at overcoming cultural mindsets. It requires us to do much rethinking in terms of the Kingdom of God.
 2. The emotions/feelings.
 - a) Sanctification also deals with our inward feelings and desire. *“Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there.”* (Galatians 5:24, NLT) So being born again is a big move forward in this realm of our lives.
 - b) So the picture is, that at our core, is life eternal. In addition, the unrenewed mind, with all its passions, is at war with the Spirit in us. Gal 5:17 declare that the desires of the flesh are against the spirit and visa versa. This calls for much sanctification.
 - (1) Paul compares it to a large house: *“If you keep yourself pure, you will be a special utensil for honorable use. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work. Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts.”* (2 Timothy 2:21–22, NLT)
 - (2) *“...And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God,”* (Titus 2:11–12, NLT)

- (3) The denial of worldly desire is an aspect of the continuing life of sanctification. Perfecting holiness must deal in depth with desire and passions that are not of God.
3. The Choices. Sanctification has to do with the will. Before salvation, the will was in bondage to sin. We naturally turned away from God to sin. But, eventually the ‘pull’ of Holy Spirit brought us to Jesus. Now the pull of the world attempts to move us away from God and back into sin.
- a) We are encouraged to walk in Spirit. *“Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives.”* (Galatians 5:25, NLT) So, we must choose to follow Christ. Life is made up of choices that happen all the time within us. We want to become like Jesus...
- b) *“... ‘My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.’”* (Matthew 26:39, NLT)
- D. Your Body. The spirit must be sanctified, the soul and the body. What is on the inside, at the core, is processed through the mind, and the body gives it expression.
1. *“Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”* (2 Corinthians 7:1, NKJV) cleanse flesh/body and spirit. Wherever bodily sin is found there is need for cleansing from it.
2. One of Paul’s strongest statements regarding this is *“God’s will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin.”* (1 Thessalonians 4:3, NLT) This is how we possess our bodies with sanctification and honor.
3. Second powerful statement. *“Don’t you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.”* (1 Corinthians 6:19–20, NLT)
4. Thirdly, 1 Cor 6:19 says *that we are the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you whom you have from God.* Paul says in 1 Thes. 4:8, that to reject this instruction is to reject God.
5. Paul hits three areas in the NT letters that have to do with bodily sin: Sexual, drunkenness and gluttony.
- a) Phil 3:19 Their god is their belly.
- b) Gal 5:19, 21 works of flesh are drunkenness and carousing.
6. Since we are the temple of the Holy Spirit, we are to show forth God in sex, food, and drink to His glory.

Conclusion:

- To be sanctified spirit, soul and body is to be brought into the likeness of God.
- It is to be transformed from glory to glory.
- To be sanctified is to be like Christ. This is the ultimate goal of our sanctification: to be transformed into the image of Christ.