

Introduction:

- I want to look at the high priestly prayer of Jesus today, in John 17:14. I want us to see and to hear Jesus praying for his disciples and all future believers.
 - When I hear the prayer of Jesus, I hear the heart of a man, the heart of our God, shouting: “I AM FOR YOU!!!” Jesus really wants us to make it in this life. So many people have a picture of a God who is out to get them or destroy them. But, I want you to hear Jesus in His prayer pulling for you. We hear His desire for us.
 - One of the amazing things Jesus prays is that we would be sanctified (NKJV) made holy. That we would be given and walk in the nature of God-holy.

“I have given them your word. And, the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I’m not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. They do not belong to this world any more than I do. Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world. And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth. “I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message.”” (John 17:14–20, NLT)

- Here is where we have been in 2015: Sanctification, Regeneration, Justification, Adoption, and I want to go back to sanctification one more time. All of these are big theological words but they simple mean. Holy, born again, not guilty, and to be brought into God’s family.
 - All of these are wonderful things that God has done for us.
 - But, I find so many people who struggle in their faith because they struggle the idea of-- How can I be holy and still keep on sinning. I want to help you with the confusion that those colliding concepts bring. We know from 1 Thes 4:3 **“It is God’s will that we be holy.”**

I. Two Works

- A. What does it mean to be holy? Set apart, pure, sacred to God.
- B. It is important to understand that there are two side of holiness. These two sides I am calling the two works of holiness.
 1. The work of God - is what God does to make us holy. Sanctification
 2. The work of man - the work of man is what I do to make me holy. Consecration
 3. The two works together operate in tandem. They go side by side. They necessarily need each other.
 - a) To neglect the first means that I am trusting in my own works to get to heaven. God’s word is very clear that is not going to happen.
 - b) To neglect the later is to negate our response ability to the love of God. If our heart is not touch by God’s love then there is a good chance we have not received His saving grace or we, in rebellion, are pushing it away.
- C. The Work of God: The setting/context is the work that God has done in us.
 2. God loves. He first loved us.
 3. God pursues. Because He loves, He comes to us. Prevenient grace.
 4. God makes a way. Jesus (work of the cross) and Holy Spirit (God in us).
- D. The Work of Man: The work we do living for God after He has saved us. *“Jesus told them, **“This is the only work God wants from you: Believe in the one he has sent.”**”* (John 6:29)
 1. Put off the old man. Eh 4:22, Col 3:9, Mortify the flesh.
 2. Put on the new man in Christ Jesus. Romans 13:12,14; Live for Christ.
 3. Renew the mind, focus on Christ
 4. Summary: God does His part and we have our part. Team effort. Relationship.

E. So, 1) praise God He has made you holy; and 2) List the things in your life that need putting off.

II. One War (So there are two works God and yours) There is one war with two sides.

- A. Can you relate to a war that seems to be going on inside of you between right and wrong, light and darkness? That war is real. It is a real spiritual struggle with eternal consequences affecting the generations.
- B. *“I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. I love God’s law with all my heart. But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God’s law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.”* (Romans 7:21–25, NLT)
1. “The law may discover sin, and convict of sin, but it cannot conquer and subdue sin. It discovers the defilement, but will not wash it off. It makes a man weary and heavy laden (Mt. 11:28), burdens him with his sin; and yet, if rested in, it yields no help towards the shaking off of that burden; this is to be had only in Christ.” Matthew Henry.
 2. If it were not for Christ, this iniquity that dwells in us would certainly be our ruin. He is our advocate (attorney) with the Father and through him God pities, and spares, and pardons, and lays not our iniquities to our charge. It is Christ that has purchased deliverance for us in due time.
- C. *“The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.”* (Galatians 5:17, NLT)
- D. Where do you find yourself at war in this spiritual battle? Can you believe you are who God says you are while you are in the dirt of the fight? How will you know that you believe that?

III. One Question Two Directives

- A. How can I be holy and still sin at the same time?
1. I am holy because of what God has done for me! I receive that by faith. I trust the fact that when I asked for forgiveness I was forgiven. I was declared not guilty and charged with righteousness. God does that when I believe.
 2. Doing right does not make you right with God. (That is based on your works alone.) Through faith in Jesus, I am made right with God. This is the Christian's foundation. Eph 2:8,9; Gal 3:20; John 6:29. And, being made right with God leads me to want to be like Him. Therefore, I enter the war to live holy to God!
 3. If you understand who you are in Christ, you will understand and value what God the Father has done for us through Jesus Christ.
 4. We still sin because sin is still at work in our members. [Romans 7:23] Because sin is still at work in our members, we find ourselves in the war just discussed.
 - a) This also reinforces our need for faith or our need to believe in what Christ has done for us at the cross.
 - b) What Christ has done for us puts us on the winning side if we only believe.
- B. Two Directives - my two goals as given by Paul the apostle.
1. Kill the flesh

- a) *“For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. 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) Godless living are all passions not directed towards God.
 - b) Jesus said it this way, “... *“If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross daily, and follow me.”* (Luke 9:23, NLT) Denial of self refers to the total self that is opposed to the way of Christ. The cross reflects the intensity with which we are to do that. IE. *The only person who carried the cross in the Roman world was those sentenced to die on it. In a sense, they were already dead as they carried their cross to their death!* This was not done in a restful calm way. It required vigorous action. Paradox
 - c) Because Holy Spirit is opposed to sinful flesh we can therefore count on His help to overcome it. You cannot tame the flesh, modify its behavior or compromise with it. It must be put to death! *“... you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live.”* (Romans 8:12–13, NLT) Put to death is strong language. But, this is what we do with the help of Holy Spirit. This is not coping with sin language!
 - d) *“So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don’t be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world.”* (Colossians 3:5, NLT) What is the point? Do not tolerate sin in your life!
2. Live for God/righteousness
- a) Give yourself to the Word. *“I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.”* (Psalm 119:11, NLT)
 - b) Keep Your Eyes on Jesus. *“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, ...”*
 - c) Walk in the fruit of the Spirit. Gal 5:22
 - d) Put on Christ *“Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.”*(Colossians 3:12, NLT) The words prior speak of taking off old man. The negative should be followed by the positive.
 - e) Live in accountable relationships. Share the journey of the Christian Faith.

Conclusion:

- The Good News is that one of us, a man, Christ Jesus stands in the midst of the Trinity.
- Living Holy is a matter of trusting in the work Christ has done for us. And at the same time we, from a heart of gratitude, work to put off the old man while putting on Christ.
- Growing in sanctification is a work begun by God and continued in us by the help of the Holy Spirit and our cooperation with Him.