

Sanctify The Lord God In Your Heart

(1 Peter 3:15-17)

- Introduction:
1. The relevancy of this passage is just as pertinent to this generation as it was to the first century generation.
 2. We live in a time when people fill their lives, their time, their priorities with little more than trivialities.
 3. The call to sanctify the Lord in one's heart is timeless.
 4. While the commandment is clear, it may not be clearly understood. What does it mean to "sanctify the Lord in our hearts?"

I. Definition of Sanctification

- A. The term sanctify comes from a Greek word meaning to "make holy, to consecrate, or to from an ordinary to a sacred purpose.
- B. (Philippians 1:19-26) Paul's conflict to stay or go.
- C. Sanctifying the Lord in our hearts put simply means to live for him.

II. Three Things Sanctification Requires

- A. Sanctification Requires a Separation.
 1. That separation can be analyzed by four little prepositions.
 - a. From - the world (2 Cor. 6:17-18).
 - b. To - God (1 Peter 2:9).
 - c. For - God's glory (1 Cor. 10:31; 1 Peter 2:9).
 - d. By - the blood of Jesus (Hebrews 10:10, 29).
 2. We must be separated from the world, but worldliness is a scourge upon the church today!
 - a. Countless people who wear the name of Jesus, live as though he has no bearing in the decisions they make.
 - b. People want Jesus as a Savior, but not as their Lord.
 3. While we cannot leave this world, we can live within it, and not be of it.
 4. Jesus didn't pray that we be taken out of the world, but while living in it, we live sanctified lives!
 5. In my judgment, the greatest challenge to sanctification today is the worldliness of the church today.
 - a. Materialism, improper dress, impure speech, base entertainment choices, sexual promiscuity, etc.
 - b. And as James said, "These things ought not be so" (James 3:10).
 6. David Bercot quote - "The movement now focuses more on primitive doctrine and ordinances than on holy living and the inner life."
 - a. This charge can't be easily dismissed when one examines the worldliness of the church.
 - b. Consider how many congregation would never tolerate an unscriptural practices to be introduced, but would they be just as intolerant of worldly and unholy living among its members?

7. The Lord's church should never be identified by emphasizing doctrine and de-emphasizing holy living or sanctification.
8. Come out of the world and reflect the light of Jesus to a lost world, groping in darkness (Acts 17:27).

B. Sanctification Requires Consecration.

1. Consecration requires commitment and loyalty; it stands in opposition to lukewarmness and indifference.
2. The Macedonians gave themselves to the Lord (2 Cor. 8:4).
3. There's an example of a church who was not consecrated (Rev. 3:15-16).
4. Is there a problem with consecration in the church today?
 - a. When missionaries come home and we live in luxury.
 - b. When Sunday night attendance is half of Sunday morning.
 - c. When complain over length of a service but overtime at a ballgame is a bonus.
 - d. When we accept blessings but fail to give thanks.
 - e. When my social calendar trumps my spiritual obligations.
5. Being a follower of Jesus requires more than a separation from sin, but he also seeks consecration.
6. (Matthew 12:43-45).

C. Sanctification Requires Holiness.

1. (1 Peter 1:16) Be holy for I am holy.
2. We are living in self deception if we think we can maintain a relationship with God while living unholy lives.
3. While sin is a part of the human condition, there is a vast difference in one who stumbles in sin and one who lives in sin.
4. While the struggle with sin is ongoing (Romans 7:13-25), we must never let it have dominion of us (Romans 6:14).
5. Balance between godly living and grace.
6. Some are so secure with the "safety net" of grace, they see little need to work at conforming their lives into the image of God's Son (Romans 8:29).

- Conclusion:
1. Biblical sanctification is both a state and a process.
 - a. We are sanctified when we obey the gospel.
 - b. But we mature and grow in sanctification as we live in rebellion to Satan and dedicate ourselves to God.
 2. Without sanctification, we'll never please God, and we'll never have any substantive influence on the world around us.
 3. May God help us to pursue sanctification and sanctify Jesus in our hearts.