

what we believe

Dr. Rich Wilkerson | November 5, 2023 | Part 11

WE BELIEVE IN SANCTIFICATION

Romans 12:1 — Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

You are 3 PERSONS ...

- 1 You are the person you see yourself to be.**
- 2 You are the person that other people see you to be.**
- 3 You are the person GOD KNOWS YOU TO BE.**

Here’s a QUESTION ...

Can You Find Victory Over Sin??

YES!! Through identifying with Christ’s death on the cross.

During the 16th century, something happened in the religious world known as the Reformation.

It started with a Catholic priest, named Martin Luther, who, through constant study of New Testament scripture and prayer, walked away from the Catholic Church and founded the Lutheran Church. That was the beginning of PROTESTANTISM. This happened in the year 1571.

There are 3 KEY WORDS that came out of The REFORMATION that you need to know and cherish.

1st / JUSTIFICATION

This word means there’s been **A change in my STANDING BEFORE THE LORD.**

I’m Justified through Faith! I cannot earn my salvation. We’ve been JUSTIFIED before the Lord through faith, just as if I’d never sinned before!!

Romans 3:23-24 — For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

2nd / REGENERATION

This word means there’s been **A change in my NATURE.**

Titus 3:5 — He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1:3-4 — His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴ Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the **divine nature**, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

Look at verse 4. Peter says that you may participate in the DIVINE NATURE, or the DIVINE NATURAL.

In other words, before you experienced salvation and regeneration in Christ, it was NATURAL TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEVIL’S NATURAL.

But now you are participating in the Divine Natural!! Your NATURE HAS CHANGED. You are now REGENERATED BY GOD’S NATURAL!

3rd / SANCTIFICATION

This word means there’s been **A change in my CHARACTER and CONDUCT.**

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The word SANCTIFY means ...

Holy, Set Apart, Consecrated.

To be holy means to be separated from sin and unto God.

SANCTIFICATION means ... A cleansing from sin and a conformity to the likeness of God.

It is God's will that once we've been saved we then BELIEVE and BEHAVE!

When you believe, it means that you are brought into fellowship with God.

When you behave, you are showing evidence to the world that you're now under new management.

You have a new relationship with Jesus Christ, God's son.

When you fall in love with Jesus, and you become a Christian, you're not going to want to bring reproach on your husband, Jesus.

Now, I know it's difficult for a man to talk about Jesus in the form of He is my husband. But the new testament makes it quite clear that we the church, are Christ's bride. We are known as the bride of Christ. So we could be called the wife of Christ, and Jesus is our husband.

But when you fall in love with Jesus, you don't want to bring any reproach on Jesus. You'll change what you used to do, things you look at, stories you listen to, friends you used to hang out with.

WHY? Because you're under new management.

My savior wants me only to Himself. He doesn't want me stepping out on Him. So I will change my ways. Because I'm in love with Jesus.

Someone says. What has he done for you?

He's promise to never leave me, nor for sake me, and He hasn't.

He's promised to give me the desires of my heart, and He has.

He's promised that my kids would never be out begging for bread, and they aren't.

He's promised to keep me prospering and in good health, even as my soul prospers, and it is.

My husband, Jesus, has been good to me. I'm gonna do what he asks me to do. I'm going to go where he asks me to go. I'm going to be what he asks me to be!

That's the way it ought to be and that's the way HE likes it. But there is a problem.

Romans 7:15-20 — I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. ¹⁶ And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. ¹⁸ For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

There's this constant battle in our flesh!!

Is there ANY HELP?? Yes, there is hope.

Romans 7:24-25 — What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

CHRIST IS OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS!

By him we are JUSTIFIED!

CHRIST IS OUR SANCTIFICATION

This is how we are conformed to the image of God!

CHRIST IS OUR REDEMPTION!!

He has redeemed our sin-sickened bodies!!!

Through **SANCTIFICATION** sin is not dead ...
but the Christian can be **DEAD TO SIN!**

HOW? Romans 8 tells us that it is through the power of the Holy Spirit, that we were separated from sin, and joined to Christ.

God's Word will keep us pure!!

John 15:3 — You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.

In his priestly prayer to His Father, Jesus spoke about you and me...

John 17:17 — Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

And finally, speaking of the church, Paul writes in

Ephesians 5:26-27 — To make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

The Word of God will make us PURE!

When you're talking about **SANCTIFICATION**, there's two things to know that we believe.

1st / INSTANT SANCTIFICATION AT THE POINT OF SALVATION.

In other words, when we are saved we are sanctified. According to 1 Corinthians 1:1-2 and Chapter 6:11

2nd / Experience a daily PROGRESSIVE SANCTIFICATION!

According to Philippians 1:6 which says... Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

We are growing every day and being perfected every day. It won't finish until we see the Lord face to face! I'm not where I want to be but I'm so thankful I'm not where I used to be!