

Sanctification Survey

December 17, 2017

Sanctification by Surrender

There is no sanctification without absolute and complete surrender.

"We have seen that the beginning of all sanctification is separation to God, as His entire possession, to be at His disposal...Because He desires to have us entirely for Himself, He has chosen and bought us, and set upon us the distinguishing mark of the blood, as those who are separated from all around them, to live only for His service." --Andrew Murray, The Power of the Blood of Jesus, Chapter 5

Romans 12:1 ESV

1 **I appeal to you** therefore, brothers, **by the mercies of God, to present** (*paristēmi* - to place a person or thing at one's disposal, proffer, provide) **your bodies as a living** (*zao* - to live, breathe, be among the living) **sacrifice** (*thysia* - the victim placed on the altar), **holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual** (*logikos* - logical, reasonable, spiritual) **worship**.

"The experiences of men who walked with God in olden times agree to teach that the Lord cannot fully bless the a man until He has first conquered him. The degree of blessing enjoyed by any man will correspond exactly with the completeness of God's victory over him."

— A.W. Tozer, The Divine Conquest

Sanctification in Review

1. Sanctification and Failure

For those with genuine sorrow and hatred for their sin...God never tempts us to sin, and He never initiates our failure, but in His loving and redemptive sovereignty He uses our failures in His process of sanctification and in molding us into whom He wants us to be.

Jeremiah 17:9-10 ESV

9 The heart is **deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?**

10 **"I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds."**

Luke 22:31-34 ESV

31 **"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat,**

32 **but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."**

33 Peter said to him, **"Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death."**

34 Jesus said, **"I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me."**

Why didn't Jesus rebuke Peter and try to change Peter's mind?

1. Paul wouldn't listen - his mind was made up - he knew better. The experience of failure would do more than Jesus' words could, at that point in Peter's life.

2. *God is not afraid (nor embarrassed) of our failure, but His loving and guiding hand remains on us even through the failure.*

Luke 22:61-62 ESV

61 **And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times."**

62 **And he went out and wept bitterly.**

Psalm 37:23-24 NASB

23 **The steps of a man are established by the LORD, And He delights in his way.**

24 **When he falls, he will not be hurled headlong, Because the LORD is the One who holds his hand.**

"The paradox is that God must destroy in us, all illusions of righteousness before he can make us righteous."

— Martin Luther

"No man trusts God as God ought to be trusted, who does not trust himself as himself ought to be distrusted."

— Dr. Alexander Maclaren

2. **Sanctification and Surrendering Relationships**

Whom you call "friend" is whom you will become.

Today's American professional church is seeking:

- *to be included by the world*
- *to be inclusive of the world*

"In the beginning the church was a fellowship of men and women centering on the living Christ. Then the church moved to Greece, where it became a philosophy. Then it moved to Rome, where it became an institution. Next it moved to Europe where it became a culture, and, finally, it moved to America where it became an enterprise." --Richard Halverson, Pastor and Chaplain of the US Senate

1 Corinthians 15:33 ESV

33 **Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals."**

Proverbs 13:20 ESV

20 **Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.**

Psalm 1:1 ESV

1 **Blessed is the man who WALKS not in the counsel of the wicked, nor STANDS in the way of sinners, nor SITS in the seat of scoffers;**

1 Kings 11:4 ESV

4 **For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.**

Judges 16:15-20 ESV

15 **And she [Delilah] said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when your heart is not with me? You have mocked me these three times, and you have not told me where your great strength lies."**

16 And when she pressed him hard with her words day after day, and urged him, his soul was vexed to death.
17 And he told her all his heart...
20 ...he did not know that the LORD had left him.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 ESV

14 Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?
15 What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever?
16 What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
17 Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you,
18 and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty."

James 4:4 ESV

4 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

2 Timothy 2:22 ESV

22 So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

Hebrews 3:12-14 ESV

12 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.
14 For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

Luke 14:26 ESV

26 If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.

3. Sanctification and Surrendering In Our Circumstances

In God's absolute and loving sovereignty, He chastens us by ordering our steps and controlling the circumstances of our life, to expose and cleanse our hearts from sin and to train us by exercise in holiness.

Hebrews 12:6 ESV

6 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."

Hebrews 12:10-11 ESV

10 For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.
11 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Hebrews 5:14 ESV

14 But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

"I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." --Thomas Edison

Hebrews 12:15-16 ESV

15 See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;

16 that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal.

4. Sanctification and Surrendering Our Mind

- *There are two lies the world tells us:*
 - *"I can be an independent thinker - I can get lost in my own world of perception and fantasy - what I think and feel is truth - truth is subjective determined by my perception - there is no objective truth - my perception is just as credible as any other opinion."*
 - *Information is Truth (just like "Philosophy is Truth" or "Science is Truth"). Information is a deceptive and deadly substitute for Truth which seduces our heart away from the Truth.*
- *The battle for our minds directly feeds the war between our spirit and our flesh. What we think about determines whether the spirit or the flesh will win.*

Galatians 5:17 ESV

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.

John 6:63 ESV

63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

Genesis 3:6 ESV

6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

Romans 8:5-7 ESV

5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds (*phroneō - to direct one's mind to a thing, to exercise the mind, to be of the same mind*) on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds (*phroneō - to direct one's mind to a thing, to exercise the mind, to be of the same mind*) on the things of the Spirit.

6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.

Romans 12:2 ESV

2 Do not be conformed (*syschēmatizō - to conform to the same pattern*) to this world, but be transformed (*metamorphoō - to change into another form, transfigure, transform*) by the renewal (*anakainōsis - renovation, complete change*) of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.