

***True & False Sanctification*** (JL-106)  
John 17:17 Sunday, November 12, 2006

John 17.

This morning we will **continue** our examination of the **doctrine of sanctification**.

Last week considering the **definition** and **Biblical call** for **holiness** in the life of the Christian.

This week we will turn to look at the **means of sanctification** – that is **how is it** that one is **sanctified** – drawing from our text – John 17:17, where Christ prays:

***Sanctify them in the truth, Thy Word is truth***

- **brief review** *from last week*
- the **only true means of sanctification** –  
***Sanctify them in the truth, Thy Word is truth***
- Then, keeping with the theme of today's sermon being ***Sanctification in Truth***,  
we will *then go on to* look at some of the **false ideologies** that the church has adopted as **means of sanctification**,  
the **errant views of sanctification**.
- Lastly, we will **conclude** with some **final exhortations**  
to ***pursue holiness without which no man will see God.***

| PRAY

Having last week defined **Biblical sanctification** – what John Owen has called, and I referred to last week as ***“Gospel holiness”***

That is the **practical outworking** of **regeneration** in the *faith* and *life* of the Christian –

also called **practical holiness** or **sanctification**.

To summarize from last week,

We began by stating that **sanctification is God's will ...**

The **command** of Hebrews 12:14 is

***Follow peace with all men, and holiness,***  
***without which no man shall see the Lord:***

1 Thess 4 says it clearly (v. 3)

***For this is the will of God, your sanctification***

**This is no option** for the **Christian**.

Holiness is **required** of God!

We said that **sanctification** is at the same time three things:  
a **state**, an **action** and a **process**.

1. it is a **state** in that we are  
**Sanctified** ...

This Is our **true standing** *before God*  
*because of the person and work of Jesus Christ*

It is by virtue of our **UNION** *with Christ by faith*  
that **His righteousness** in **justification** and  
**His holiness** in **sanctification** are *both* **imputed to us**

1 Cor 6:11

***And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are  
sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus,  
and by the Spirit of our God.***

**You are NOT BEING sanctified** or **BEING washed**  
**You ARE sanctified, you ARE washed!**

You are **DECLARED righteous** and made *positionally holy* (STATE)

## 2. **Act (Definitive sanctification)**

**Sanctification** is

a *once for all* **action** – a **definite one time act** of divine grace,  
by which we are *constituted* as *holy*.

Hebr 10:10

***By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.***

Our **sanctification** was **attained** for us  
in the **work of Christ** on the cross

In the death of Christ, **sin was conquered** ...  
not *in theory* but in a **definitive act!**

**Sanctification** is *no mystical matter* ...

Some teach that **sanctification** is *all positional*  
as if one can be **positionally sanctified**  
without a *corresponding holiness of life* ...

But Scripturally, we find

*Every time* that our **position** or **standing in Christ**,  
Is emphasized,  
it has **practical** and **real** implications *in the life*.

**Sin reigned** *in the past*, **NOW** **grace reigns** *in the present* (Rom 6)

You are under the **enabling** grace of God.

John 13.

final Passover that Jesus spent with His disciples,  
we said how the *theme* of Jesus' entire ministry has **changed** –  
having left the multitude, He turned now to **minister to His own**.

Jesus first *took up a basin and towel* to **wash His disciples' feet**.  
First Peter rejected –

Jesus said in verse 8,

***“If I don’t wash you, you have no part with me.”***

Peter conceded in vs. 9,

***“Lord, not my feet only, but my hands and my head.”***

To which Jesus responds (Jhn 13:10)

***“He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean ...”***

He was alluding to the fact that one who is *in Christ* need only be **bathed** –  
or **baptized into Christ** ... *ONCE* –

**we are clean** – *because of the Holy Spirit’s ONE TIME  
regenerative work in the heart.*

*However*, we do need to have our **feet washed**.

Which is a picture of the **daily**  
***progressive sanctification*** of the believer

### **3. Process (progressive sanctification)**

**Progressive sanctification** is  
the continuance, maintenance, and progression  
of **definitive sanctification**

It is the **outworking** of *holiness, without which no one shall see the Lord*.

IT is our **experience** of

***growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ***  
and therefore **progressively** being ***conformed into the image of God***

There is a **progressive manifestation** of *God’s converting grace*  
*in the life of every true Christian*

Hbr 10:14

*For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.*

By the *offering of the cross*, in **that definitive act**,  
He has **perfected** or **finished** a *resultant process* ...

And that process is your **sanctification**.

This is what the Scripture means when it speaks of  
***“working out our salvation with fear and trembling.”***

This is also referred to as *“practical Christian living”*

**Progressive sanctification** is  
living such a life that is **demanded** by the **Scripture**  
and by the **moral character of God**.

Such **sanctification** is largely *experimental* –  
that is it occurs in the realm of our **experience**.

And because of this, it is **tainted** by **cultural background**  
and **personal preference**,  
And so is *liable* to **great error**.

It is because of not understanding **positional**, **definitive** and **progressive sanctification**,  
that *much of the church* has **strayed** into false teaching  
in this matter of **sanctification**.  
which we will get into shortly.

But let us first consider where it is that we will find  
the **TRUE means** of **sanctification** ...

***Sanctify them***, Jesus prayed,  
***in the truth, Thy Word is truth***.

Salvation and sanctification are ***in truth*** ...

There is **ONE WAY** the child of God is **saved** and **sanctified**.

**Salvation** comes *by* **the Word of God**.

*The law of the LORD is perfect, **converting the soul**: (Psa 19:7)*

*Timothy, from a child you have known the holy scriptures, **which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus**. (2 Tim 3:15)*

*receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is **able to save your souls**. (Ja 1:21)*

***faith** cometh by hearing, and hearing by the **word of God**. (Rm 10:17)*

We are **born again**, not of corruptible seed, but of **incorruptible, by the word of God, which lives and abides for ever**. (1 Pet 1:23)

To be **saved** is synonymous with **coming to a knowledge of the truth, receiving a love of the truth**.

*The Holy Spirit does not reveal Truth to us in a magical or mystical way. **Truth** comes from **the Word of God**, as the Spirit of God **illuminates** or **explains** it to us.*

As we **hear the Word of God**, **we believe** (Rom 10:17), our **belief** then is **based upon truth**.

It is some *generic faith* that **saves**, but **specifically faith in Christ**.

2 Thess 2:13-14 states that we are ***chosen for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth***.

And *then, having been **born again by the imperishable seed of the Word of God*** (1 Pet 1:23),

Peter goes on to **admonish us NOW**

*as newborn babes [to] long for the pure milk of the Word,  
that by it you may grow in respect to salvation (1 Pet 2:2).*

Jesus tells us that **discipleship** is characterized by  
*continuing* or *remaining* in the Word (John 8:31-32).

**The only thing** that will *ever* set a sinner free from the **bondage of his sin**  
is the Truth.

The Truth is what sets us free unto **salvation** and  
in **sanctification**.

We are therefore *progressively sanctified* by the Holy Spirit  
through the **ongoing discipline** of **Scripture intake**.

It is a **growing knowledge of the Truth** that leads to  
*practical holiness* and *godliness*.

2 Tim 3:16-17 teaches us that **the Word of God** is the  
**God-ordained means** for doctrine, reproof, correction, and  
training;  
that we might be *thoroughly furnished (Fully equipped)*  
*for every good work*.

Until we let the **Word of God**, do what it says it will do ...  
Namely teach, confront, correct, and train us,  
we will **NEVER** know *experiential sanctification* ...

there is **no other means** which *the Holy Spirit* uses to **sanctify**.

We do **not find sanctification** coming in **any other way**  
but the truth of God's Word.

This happens because all Scripture is *indeed profitable*  
to teach, reprove, correct and train.

As we first **learn the truth** of **God's Word**,  
it will become *inevitable* that **the Word** will **confront our sin**.

We *need* to be **confronted with our sin** –  
we need the *rebuking factor* of **God's Word** –  
it **exposes sin, it refutes error.**

1 Jo 2:5

*but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly  
been perfected.*

See how it is in the **keeping** (*tereo = setting a watch upon,  
keeping before your eyes ...*  
*in practical terms: hearing, reading, studying, meditating*)

in the **word of God**,  
as you do this, *the love of God will be perfected in you.*

*Don't neglect this **discipline** of taking in the Scripture,  
my brothers and sisters ...*

1 Thess 2:13-14

*And for this cause we also constantly thank God that when  
you received from us the word of God, you received it not as  
the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which  
effectually performs its work in you who believe.*

The work of **sanctification** *in the life ...*  
*without which no man shall see God*  
is done *in the **Word of God** ...*  
it cannot be done apart from the **Word of God**.

The **word of God** is the *God-ordained means* for your **sanctification**, and  
to the extent that we **neglect the Word of God**,  
we will be *severely crippled* and *under God's chastisement*;

but to the extent that we **practice the spiritual discipline**  
of **Scripture** *hearing, reading, study and meditation*,  
we will experience **sanctifying grace**.



*Don't neglect it my friends, or that smarting rod  
is going to come and you will find yourself  
**laid up** on your back,  
or **out of work**  
or in **some place**  
where you will have little else to do *but* to **read the Word**.*

*Don't neglect it!*

Rom 12:2 admonishes us,

***“Be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the  
renewing of your mind”***

How is your *mind* to be renewed?  
**Through Scripture.**

*Whose mold are you squeezed into?  
If you are squeezed into this world's mold –  
it is because **your mind** is not being renewed by **Scripture**.*

The default mode is *the world* ...  
If we *neglect the Word*, we will be **conformed to the world**.

It is **the Scripture** must govern the way we act, talk, walk, think and live.

And all **sanctifying instruction** to *walk in truth* in a *worthy manner*,  
is found in **the Word of God**.

As believers we are *first justified by faith* ...

then *as new-born babes*, we begin a walk in Christ ...  
We begin to **grow** and are changed into His image.

As every *living* baby **grows into childhood** and *ultimately adulthood*,  
so every *living* Christian will go through the **same process**.

**Justification** and **Sanctification** are inseparably connected.

There are **no** *justified saints*, who are **not** in the **process** of being sanctified.

As Priest, Christ's blood **paid the penalty for sin ...**  
and **cancels the curse of the law,**  
which is the **damning power of the law.**

As King, His **presence in our lives delivers us from the**  
**reigning power of sin.**

***“Sin shall no longer have mastery over you, for you are not  
under law, but under grace”***

**Progressive Sanctification** is the *ongoing process of*  
**cleansing in the life.**

And John 17, in verse 17 and again in verse 19,  
Jesus prays for his people to be

**sanctified in truth.**

We've heard it said *many times, many ways ...*

*This book will keep you from sin.*

You've heard people call it *“the good book”*

*From Genesis to Revelation ... this book is **GOOD** ...*  
It is **profitable**

Paul *emphasized* that he **Law is good**  
Jesus said that ***He came to fulfill***, not *abrogate* the Law  
David said ***the Law of the Lord is perfect***

**The Law** is *good*, it is *perfect*.  
Every ***jot and tittle*** of it ...

It is an *eternal* an **unalterable** rule of Righteousness.  
It is a **reflection** of the **moral character of God.**

The *mere suggestion* that **God has done away with His Law,**  
is an **invention** from the pit of hell.

To *imagine* God *repealing* His **eternal law**,  
is to *take away* His **justice** and **righteousness**.

It *supposes* that **he would release His creation**  
from that which **directs them** into *doing good*,  
to *rather permit them* to do **that which is wrong**.

Matthew 5:18

*till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.*

How **horrible** to *imagine* that **Jesus Christ** would come from heaven,  
take on human flesh, **die on the cross** ...  
with the **purpose** of **securing** for His people  
*lawless liberty* and *lascivious living*!

That's why Paul uses such strong language ...  
**"God Forbid!"**

People will say, what about in *NT times*, are *New Testament believers*  
exhorted to **keep the law**:

I John 2:3, which will show us that it is the **mark** of a  
**true Christian**, that *he keeps the law*.

*By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected.*

Some would say, well, that's talking about the *New Commandment* ...  
the **Law of Christ** – not the **Law of Moses** ...

*except* that the *New Commandment*,  
**really isn't new** ... look down at verse 7:

1 John 2:7

*Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you have heard.*

You see, *the Law of Christ **IS** the eternal moral law, only in Christ, it is now written on our hearts.*

Isn't that what **Jeremiah prophesied** of the *New Covenant*?  
That *this law would be written on your hearts, that you might perform it.*

So the Law is Good!

HOWEVER,

Despite this there is a right and wrong way to use the law.

1 Timothy 1:8 says  
*the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully,*

A scalpel in the hand of a **plumber** is *very different*  
than a scalpel in the hand of a **surgeon**.

The Law has a **proper use** for *believers* and for *unbelievers*.

For *believers* as a **rule for holiness** – a **guide** to **show us God's will** –  
**that we might do it** and **please Him**, *out of love for Him*.

And for *unbelievers* as a **school-master** to **lead them to Christ**

But because people have **ignored** the **intent** of the law,  
what has happened is that it has **confused** the **work of the cross**.

The first message of the cross is **not** “*God Loves You*”  
but is “*God's Law has been broken.*”

Trying to understand the cross as an act of love,  
apart from understanding the law is like  
trying to *assemble a jig-saw puzzle* with half the pieces missing.

All of the **errant ideas** that people have as to the **means**  
by which one is **sanctified** can be **summarized** under  
two broad categories

*Legalism or Antinomianism.*

All of the **means** that people consider **means of sanctification** –  
from *Gnosticism* to *mysticism* to *pietism* to *perfectionism*  
to “*higher life*” *theology*, to *second works of the Holy Spirit* –  
all fall under one of these two ...

- All of these either on the one hand,

**add laws** to the Scripture –  
and these become *evidence of sanctification* –  
that is one is **sanctified** as he *fulfills* a list of dos and donts.

Or on the other hand,

a complete **setting aside** of the **law of God** –  
that is **denying** that the law of God has **any value**  
in the life of the **NT Christian** and  
that rather the Christian is now ruled by  
**“the law of love.”**

1) **Legalism** –

a system of **salvation by works of law** –  
whereby men are **justified** or put in **right place** with God  
based upon their effort –

This is found in *Judaism*, *Catholicism*, as well as modern cults –  
*in fact* all of the world’s religions,  
have some form of a works-based earned righteousness.

**Legalism** *omits* or *denies* the **need** for the **enabling grace of God**

**Legalism** *perverts* **sanctification** by making it a **matter of duty** –

it *reduces* **sanctification** to the *keeping* of **outward standards** –  
it thus *separates* **sanctification** from the **grace of God**.

**Legalism** *produces* *Phariseaism* ...

The *Pharisees* were the “*Separated ones*”  
but their **separation** was **external**

**Pharisaical sanctification** was a *work a man* – **not of the Holy Spirit**.

This is what **characterizes** much of **Christian separation** *today*.

There are many churches **consumed** with the matter of separation.

*Pharisees* are usually blind to their own lack of holiness or their own sin.

They are **quick** to correct **others**,  
while **failing** to see **their own sin** ...

Paul the Pharisee, *believed himself* to be *blameless*  
Until *the law shook him* and *free grace awoke him*  
And then, He realize the **horror of his OWN sin**.

*You want to know if you are a Pharisee* ...  
Let me tell you, if you are finding the fault of others  
a **greater rate** than finding *your own* faults,  
**you are a Pharisee**.

Your dress may drag the floor, you may not have television in your house,  
you may not watch any sports activities ...  
You can be living *as though* you were 16<sup>th</sup> century Puritan ...

The desire to ***live godly in Christ Jesus*** is **great**,  
but it must come from the **heart** in **obedience to the Word of God**,

not from keeping some *man-made outward standard*  
that can make a man:  
a *clean, moral, self-righteous, smug*  
**church member,**  
and leave him **unchanged of heart.**

Long dresses, not watching television, not going to movies,  
Not eating, not drinking  
where these **activities** come from the heart, is OK,

but if it is **forced upon a people** (*overtly or subtly*)  
as if to suggest that to act such makes one holy,  
then it is **horrible perversion.**

Such <b>legalism</b> has a <b><u>deadening</u></b> effect on <i>how one lives.</i> Legalism will <b><u>kill</u></b> <i>any saint of God.</i>
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*What good does it do for a people to **stop** all their bad habits,*  
*walk around carrying their Bibles,*  
*make good clean, sincere, moral church members,*

and yet **remain unsaved** *because they have mistaken holiness*  
for an **outward system** of *dos and don'ts.*

Much of Christianity has been **given a bad name** by such activity.

Such *systems* are a **complete denial** of *Christian liberty.*

God did **not** call us to be *odd balls* – but to be the *salt of the earth.*

People should notice us for the **lives we live**, not for looking oddly.

**Separation is inward not outward.**

*The Jews* were to be **separated outwardly** –

But *that which is born of flesh is flesh,*  
and *that which is born of spirit is spirit.*

And **legalism** confuses this.

And much of the **errant thinking** on the **matter** of what is holiness  
are the results of the influence of the legalists.

**Legalism** in its extreme leads to  
another tendency called *asceticism* ...  
that is an *unbiblical self-denial* that  
**seeks to gain God's favor** by giving up things.

This again is *Pharisaeism*  
*Lord, I thank you that I am not like this publican, I fast, I tithe ...*  
*Look at what I do that he doesn't ... I'm more holy!*

It is trying to **move God's hand** by what **I do**.

Coloss 2:18 ...

***Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in  
self-abasement ...***

[skip down to verse 20]

***If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of  
the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you  
submit yourself to decrees, such as, "Do not handle, do not  
taste, do not touch!" (which all refer to things destined to  
perish with the using) — in accordance with the  
commandments and teachings of men? These are matters  
which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-  
made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the  
body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence.***

I remind you again of what I said a few weeks ago ...

*Wherever you go ... Wherever you go ... wherever you go ...*  
**BE SURE ...**  
*You will drag this **body of death** with you!*

The *Pharisees* failed to realize this.



Phariseaism is all about **hedges** ...  
they had *the law*, so in order to keep they law,  
they built **hedges** around the law,  
to **be sure** that they would **not break it** –

They had the *appearance of wisdom*,  
but were *self-made religion* and *self-abasement* and  
were of *no value against fleshly indulgence*.

Asceticism today is **manifested** as  
some people believe that we should *drive old cars* –  
or *buy our suits at the salvation army* ...  
That these are **manifestations of holiness** and **humility**

An ascetic is **not humble** at all.  
An ascetic is one who  
is attempting to **gain righteousness** through **self-denial**.

There is nothing **more prideful** than to think that  
*one can be more holy* through acts of self.

Another tendency is in asceticism – this is an **unscriptural perversion**  
of the **reality of life** ...  
Failing to see that **life is REAL** –  
and so trying to live on a *self-created non-earthly plain*.

People do this with the church ...  
*we want our church to be like the early church ...*  
*oh yeah, which one?*  
You want the *carnality* of **Corinth**  
You want the *legalism* of **Galatia**  
Maybe the *angel-worship* of **Colossae** appeals to you  
How about the *lukewarmness* of **Laodecia**?

The *church* as an institution is **not perfect**, it never was.  
Let's stop trying to think that we can create a **perfect church** ...

If we think our church is **perfect**, we will *cease reforming* –  
dwelling on a *self-created, plain* that is **no earthly good**.

**So concerned about separating,**  
that we have **separated ourselves *so much***  
that we are **no longer really in the world**  
where we can be ***salt*** and ***light***.

We have all heard the saying,  
*“He is so heavenly minded that he is of now earthly good.”*

but there **are those** who **create** their own “**spiritual plain**”  
in which to live on – and *their the only ones on it!*

**Anthony** was the founder of **Christian monasticism** ...  
He **never** *changed his vest* or *washed his feet*.

**Simeon Stylities**, who in the 5<sup>th</sup> century  
spent the **last several years of his life** atop a 36 foot pillar ...

mistakingly believing that the **path to spirituality**  
lied in **withdrawing physically from the world** and  
**exposing his body** to the elements

It was his attempt to **retreat** from *the physical*  
as though **Christian separation**  
were *physical* or *geographical*

He had his food sent up with a **rope**.  
To keep himself from falling off, he **tied himself** and  
developed rope burns ...  
one day a **maggot fell out** of his **sore**,  
and he **put the maggot back in**  
saying, *“my friend eat what God hath provided thee”*

That is **not unworldly** ... that is **unREAL** ... its **INSANITY!**  
That's not ***salt*** and ***light***.

There's no one **looking** at that kind of behavior and **praising God** for it.

*Asceticism* might make a person *appear spiritual*,  
*because* of its **emphasis on humility** and **poverty**,

but it only serves only to **gratify the flesh**.

Yet this is a *practice* in the church today ...

People living on their own *self-created plains* ...

Creating their own "cloud nine"

Imagining some *perfect ideal* instead of **bearing with one another**.

Seeking **sanctification** by *removing themselves* from **Biblical reality**.

Do not **to be intimidated** by false human philosophy,  
legalism, mysticism, or asceticism.

Those are but "*broken cisterns that can hold no water*" (Jer 2:13).

We **must not STAND** with those who want to put **unscriptural restrictions**  
on our lives, let the **Bible be our guide**, not social dictates.

It was Charles Finney who said,

*"no tobacco, no alcohol"* **Why?**

If you put bad things into your body, **you will sin**.

It was also Charles Finney who said,

*"no coffee, no tea, no spicy foods"*

Our Lord said, that it is **not what goes into the body that defiles him**.

You can eat or drink what you want in realm of your Christian liberty,  
and in considering your own fleshly weaknesses,

**unless** *you can cause your brother to stumble* ...

But it is not a **moral issue**, its an **ethical issue**.

Legalism promotes in otherwise *sincere people* a **lifestyle**  
that is **diametrically opposed** to true **Biblical godliness**.

*Is it possible* that in your **desire** to be a **good Christian**,  
beneath all that *sincerity*,  
*is it possible* that **your heart** has **remained untouched?**

*Is it possible that you have **tried** to keep yourself in check  
with **outward things**?*

*Is it so that while **outward** trying to be a Christian,  
inwardly you are **rebell**ing against **heart holiness**.*

*If all of your **Christianity** is a **system** of *dos and don'ts* –  
then by God's free sovereign mercy,  
might **your eyes be opened** to look to Christ.*

*Christianity is **not** a **system** of works and laws,  
Christianity is **Jesus Christ** ... His **person**, His **work**,  
*redeeming the soul, transforming the life,*  
and the *implanting of a heart's desire* to **please Him**.*

That is **biblical sanctification**.

2) *Antinomianism* (*ante* = against ... *nomos* = law)

*Antinomianism* is to **cast off restraint** and live a **subjective Christianity**.

Man is by nature *antinomian* ... as he, from the *garden of Eden* on,  
sought to **cast off God's law**

Men are **sinners** *by nature* – and therefore *a-nomia* ...  
no man apart from God's grace likes **outward restraint**.

None of us like to be told *by someone else*  
what is **right** and what is **wrong** ...

*Antinomianism* is derived from the false theory of *dispensationalism*,  
that the **law of God** is **abolished** when *Jesus died on the cross*,

the Law *therefore* has **no value** as a *guiding principle*  
and Christians are to be guided by  
the "*law of love*,"

which is **interpreted** and **defined** *individually* by "*the Spirit*."

Dispensationalism is a **total view** of **Scripture** that **relegates the law of God** to a **past age** and to the **nation of Israel ALONE**.

It makes the **law of God**, *Jewish, national, Old Testament* – **not** for **believers** – so they **deny** the **present existence** of the **reality** of an **objective standard** for **holiness**.

Dispensational theologian Lewis Sperry Chafer wrote in his “*Systematic Theology*”

*“as positional sanctification is absolutely disassociated from daily life, so experimental sanctification is absolutely unrelated to position in Christ.”*

Dispensationalists **separate sanctification** from the **law of God**.

They are *therefore*, **relativistic** because it has **no standard** of **what holiness is** – as there is **no law**.

Dispensationalism teaches that we are **united with Christ**, that **He is our justification** and **our sanctification**, and **that is true**,

but dispensationalism also teaches that our **positional sanctification** has **no relationship whatsoever** to **the way we live** in *daily life*.

1 Thess 4:7-8

***For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification. Consequently, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.***

Antinomianism is **humanistic** *at its core*.

Antinomianism **emphasizes love** ...

When the Bible tells us that **love** is the **fulfillment of the law** ...  
it is in the context of

*Thou shalt not steal,  
thou shalt not lie,  
thou shalt not commit adultery ...*

It tells us this is **HOW** we are *loving our neighbor*.

**Love** is **defined** by **law** ...

How can I know **HOW** to *love my neighbor* apart from law?

The *Antinomian's love* has **no foundation** and  
becomes *relativistic* and *situational* ...

**love** becomes *different* under different situations.

For many Christians **their law**, and **guiding principle** is:

*“the peace they have in their heart”*

*Antinomianism* is one of the **greatest perverted forces** in *Christianity today*.

It is the road for many to seek other means of **sanctification**.

Strange as it may seem, *Antinomianism* **leads to** *legalism*.

Man is created as a **law-keeping being**

Man requires **order** ... and **law**

He hates restraint, yet at the **same time** seeks *some*

**standard of law** that he can use to *justify himself*.

So when the *Antinomian*, says,

*don't bind me ... don't tell me the ten commandments,  
don't tell me “thou shalt” “thou shalt not”*

And he **neglects** **God's law**,

he will seek to substitute it with **his own standard** of law –

And **any law** added to God's law becomes **legalism**.

*So you don't eat, you don't drink – there's a lot of places you don't go  
– you dress a certain way ...  
you do all the dos and don't all the don'ts  
**and still go the hell.***

Because **man's law** is **graceless!**

It is only **God's law** that *brings freedom!*  
Only His law is *just, holy* and *wise* ...

**Man's law** has an *appearance* of **wisdom** ...

*Antinomianism* is also the **root** of many *professing Christians*  
seeking **MYSTICAL means of sanctification.**

Apart from any **STANDARD of sanctification,**  
many seek **sanctification**  
*rather than from the absolute truthful standard of God's Word*  
instead in **experiences.**

*Mysticism*, or the **pursuit** of a *deeper* or *higher* **subjective**  
**religious experience** – is the *only sanctification many Christians*  
**ever know** of and it is a **counterfeit** rooted in *Antinomianism.*

*Mysticism* looks for truth *internally*, weighing *feelings, intuition,*  
and other *internal sensations* **more heavily** than  
**objective, observable, external data.**

This *irrational* and *anti-intellectual* **approach** is the **antithesis**  
of *Christian theology.*

Yet it **speaks** in *Biblical, genuinely Christian terms* ...

You will **hear from mystics** of

*A relationship with God – a union with God.*  
*A life of prayer, meditation, or contemplation –*  
*a personal experience with God.*

But while *shrouded in Biblical language*,  
it **departs** from an **objective standard** of the **Word of God**  
and makes **sanctification**  
*entirely a matter of feeling and pragmatic principles.*

This manifests itself even in the way we talk ...  
No longer do people say, “*I believe*” or “*My opinion is*”  
But “*I feel*”  
Even preachers speak of what they “*feel*” rather than “*believe*”

We live in an **existential world** governed by **feelings**.  
Which has replaced believing

**Sense** has replaced faith.

So men look to their **feelings** – rather than to any **objective means**  
to **make decisions**.

Men look to be guided by an *inner life* ...  
They look for **guidance** in how the “*spirit moved them*”  
Or how they *felt* about an *experience*  
And not “**THUS SAITH THE LORD**”  
**The living word of God!**

This **PERMEATES modern Christianity**.

*Subjectivism* that takes precedent over the **revealed will** of God  
**in His word**

This has existed throughout the **history of Christianity**.

*In the first century*, **Peter** dealt with this in his **second epistle** ...  
before identifying of the **false prophets**,  
he *first made sure* that those who were reading his letter *knew*:  
  
that **despite all** that he himself had **experienced**  
and seen with his own eyes as an apostle



That there was what he describes as a  
**MORE SURE WORD**  
*A lamp shining in the dark place*

And that *no prophecy of Scripture was ever made by the act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God!*

Later in the second century the church adopted mysticism  
derived from the ideas of Plato ...

In mid-evil times, the **monastic life** (monks in monasteries)  
was based upon mystical ideas.

The Quakers are another **example**.

They did not need the Bible because they were guided by an  
*inner light*.

Keswick or “Higher Life” movement ...  
adopted by the Charismatic and Pentacostal movements.

Teach that **sanctification** comes to us in a **moment of time**

The modern Charismatic believes that he is **sanctified**  
when he experiences the **speaking in tongues**.

Others look for specific **manifestations** as *proof* that they are **sanctified**.

They need this **existential experience** of **instantaneous sanctification** –  
this *second work of grace* that they can live a *life of godliness* –

and we do not doubt their *sincerity*,  
but it is **decidedly against** the teaching of the Word of God.

And when *push comes to shove*, **some** of those who have  
**achieved** that *higher life*  
act just as *carnally* as those of us who are  
**still struggling** with the **remnants** of **indwelling sin**.

Realize too, that this is why *so many in this camp*  
fall into such **gross immorality** ...

Mysticism and **immorality** always go together ...

Because when one separates **sanctification** from the **law** –  
he will be **led by his SENSES** –  
which will *always* lead to **sinful behavior**.

So this *ugly, ungodly, antinomian gospel*,  
which is *a lawless gospel*, which is *no gospel* at all  
is **rampant** in a church today

And it has **relegated** the Word of God to a *mere road map*.

*The Word is good they will say,  
to point you in the right direction –  
but we cannot idolize the Bible ...  
the Bible after all is not God –  
and a relationship with God is personal and dynamic  
the standards of relationships change.*

*God once used an objective standard to reveal His will, but no longer*  
All of this **nonsense** comes down to Satan's attack on the most  
**foundational cornerstone** of *the faith ... Sola Scriptura –  
Scripture alone!*

This rallying cry of the reformation implies that **the Word of God**  
is *infallible, inerrant, complete, final ...*  
*absolutely authoritative ... and*  
**Totally sufficient** for **all your needs!**

There is **nothing essential** for man to know which may **not be found there**.

Without *Sola Scriptura*, there is **NO basis for sanctification**.

**Scripture** has been given to the church – it was *delivered*  
to the church as a **body of teaching** –  
*those things most surely believed among us!*

And *these things*, have been  
passed down from *generation to generation* ...  
***entrusted to faithful men to teach***

So from Augstine to the reformers – Wycliffe, Hus, Luther, Calvin,  
Knox, Zwingli, Edwards, Matthew Henry, John Bunyan,  
Charles Spurgeon, Martyn Lloyd-Jones, up **to this very day** ...

this body of teaching has been entrusted to faithful men to teach ...

Men have **lost their lives** over **this Word** ...

*To this day*, Bibles exist from the time Bloody Mary ruled England ...  
She was **responsible** for the **murder** of many Protestants.  
Her soldiers would spill the blood and **dip their Bibles** *in the blood* –  
a few of these have been preserved to this day – “Martyr’s Bibles”  
this was someone’s **most valuable possession**,  
and their blood is there to **prove it**.

Yet today, there is a **contempt** for doctrine, for teaching –  
and an **emphasis** to the contrary  
on emotional indulgence and the perversion of Biblical love

***All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable  
for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in  
righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly  
furnished unto all good works. (2 Tim 3:16-17)***

Christianity is based on DOCTRINE ...  
and **doctrine** is the *basis* of **experience** –  
**not the other way around!**

**God’s law**, that is **His Word**, is the *only* revealed **standard of holiness**.

And we will **not submit ourselves**  
to the *dos and donts* of Pharisaism  
on the one hand  
or to the *lisentiousness* of antinomianism  
on the other hand.

The church is full of people **imprisoned** by **false systems** of doctrine –

Perhaps you know of some ... who are  
*slaves* to **lies** ...  
*slaves* to **legalistic systems**  
or to **Antinomian heresy**

We must *after first understanding these truths* for **ourselves**,  
take every false ideology and false doctrine  
and **make it obedient to Christ** ...

we must, as Jude admonishes ...

*have mercy on some, who are doubting; save others,  
snatching them out of the fire hating even their garments*  
Or else, those people **enslaved** by the **lies**,  
will **die** captive to them.

*Get these things down for yourselves* ...  
fight this battle first in **your own heart**.

*Be disciplined* to **constantly get truth** into *your own mind*  
this is **absolutely critical**.

Remember *spiritual growth* – *your sanctification* –  
only comes **in Truth**,  
and there is no other way to **get it**.

So **get it** – **understand it** – get **rooted** and **grounded** in it –

and then **STAND** *for* it ...

**“content earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed  
down to the saints.”**

If we fail to do this ... and we just go *along our merry way*,  
People will not be delivered from the **lies** they believe –  
some may **not even be saved** –  
and others who are will **not grow**.

Wrong damns ... Truth saves ... Truth sets free!

*If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to sound words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling ... (1 Tim 6:3-4)*

**Spiritual growth** is dependent upon **sound doctrine**.

*And brother and sisters, many of **your closest friends** are starving to death **Starving** for what you know and have found to be the truth.*

*have mercy on some, who are doubting; save others, snatching them out of the fire ...*

*Sanctify them*, Jesus prays, **IN the truth**.  
Jesus said, **I am the truth**

1 Cor 1:2 says we are **sanctified IN Christ Jesus**

**What a wonderful fact!**  
**What a treasure!**

But I'll leave you with some final exhortations, by way of application ...

**Two pitfalls** to *watch our for* ... and **five encouragements** ...

**Three pitfalls** ... *very practical* ...

- I) Do not imagine that *just because you are a Christian*, that *somehow* the **truth** is going to **infuse itself automatically** in your life.

This is a **great fallacy** ... **faith is not passive** ... true we do not rely on our own activity,

but at the same time,  
don't just sit around and do nothing ...  
Tolle Lege ... **PICK UP and READ**

And **consistently apply** what you read!

You don't get a "shot of sanctification"  
You are **sanctified** as you **READ** and **APPLY**.

II) The second pitfall to be aware of is this:

Don't *expect* to feel something happening to you.  
**Sanctification** is **application** of truth **believed**.  
We are neither **saved** nor **sanctified** *by sense*, but *by faith*.

III) Don't read *just because* "I have a certain amount of time before I got to work"

Read in such a way so as to come to a **deeper knowledge**  
of the **greatness** and **holiness** of God ...  
and the **magnitude of my sin**, which in turn **magnifies His grace**.

Which brings me to conclude with some **final encouragements**  
as to **how** to read the Word of God ...

5 encouragements all under **one heading**.

<b>Read your Bible, <u>with an eye toward your sanctification</u>.</b>
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In the *entire Word* there is *something* that will promote your **sanctification**,  
but there are **certain emphases**,  
which are of **particular importance**.

- 1) Look for **truths** taught about **God Himself**
- 2) Wherever you are reading, **look for Christ**.

Jesus said "***But the Scriptures point to Me!***" John 5:39

*Search the Scriptures* with a view of seeing and knowing more of your Redeemer,

As your ideas brighten on the person of Christ, you will find that you love Him more.

- 3) Study the doctrine of **sin** – see how **God views sin** and how **man is affected by sin**.
- 4) Meditate upon the Scriptures which **introduce and teach the great doctrine of your identification with Christ**. Look for all the mentions in the New Testament of our being **IN CHRIST**.
- 5) realize as you read that **God** directly addresses **His Word** to YOU ...

It is *personal* ...

The Word of God is an instrument *not only* of law or of government, but of fellowship.

*Through it* the great king of the universe reveals his desire to **not live separated from his subjects**,

*but on the contrary*

He desires that they **know Him** – that is intimately in a love relationship.

**This can only happen as both parties know about each other.**

God is your maker, and *as such* He knows **EVERYTHING about you** – before we say or do anything He knows us ...

But we know nothing of Him ...

*Until, that is*, we have His word quickened to our heart by **His Spirit**.

So God gives YOU His Word to woo you – **not** in an *evangelical sense* – **not** to woo the *unregenerate* – but to woo YOU – *His bride* to **love Him**.

Remember that ... this is *God's love letter* to YOU, *who believe*.  
It *woos* as well as *instructs*-  
It does not just tell us *about God* –  
but to **calls us** to *personal communion with God*.

**Be sanctified, in the truth** ... God's Word *is truth*.

Truth, received in the love and power of it . . .  
will establish your decisions,  
will soften and melt your heart,  
will warm and draw your affections upward,  
will keep your conscience alive and tender,

It is the food of faith,  
the bread of life  
It is the strength of hope,  
It is the well-spring of love.

"My child, listen to Me and **treasure** My instructions.  
Search for them as you would for lost money or  
**hidden treasure!**" (Proverbs 2:1,4)

**So the Word of God** is the **tool** that the **Holy Spirit** uses to make us **more**  
**like Christ** ... to have **grow in holiness**.

**This is important to God.**

So much so that *without holiness, no man shall see Him*.

**I pray that you would make it the priority in your life.**

That *just as* you would **not** *go a day without eating*,  
so you would *not go a day without meditating on the Word*.

*Long for it as a **baby craves pure milk***.

*A baby doesn't care whether it is inside, outside,*  
*whether it is day or night,*

*A baby will **scream** until it gets the milk ...*



Likewise do more than *merely* **read it**,  
do more **study it**,

**DESIRE IT!**

**Want it more than anything else.**

May it be yours' as it was David's **treasure**  
in that it *is more valuable than gold, yea than much fine gold*

And it is your **pleasure** –

In that it is *sweeter also than honey of the honey comb.*

PRAYER (from Psalm 119)