

**Hebrews 12:14-17**  
Striving for Holiness

*Striving in Christ ...*

- I. Pursue Grace
  - A. Peace
  
  - B. Holiness
  
  - C. Christlikeness
- II. Flee Idolatry
  - A. Sexual Immorality
  
  - B. Sensuality
  
  - C. Godless Flippancy

*... thriving in faith.*

**Children, Listen ...**

1. What should every Christian want to get rid of in their lives?
2. What should every Christian want to do?
3. Where do we learn about what God hates and what God loves?

**Saved and Striving**

In his effort to inspire them toward a vigorous journey of faith, the author is urging believers on in the pursuit of sanctification.

We must never confuse sanctification with justification. Our Catechism helps us to see that justification is an act of God that did not involve active participation on our part. Q. 33. *What is justification?* A. *Justification is an act of God's free grace, wherein he pardons all our sins, and accept us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.* Sanctification is also an act of God's grace, but, unlike justification, sanctification involves the conscious and intentional involvement on the part of saints. Q. 35. *What is sanctification?* A. *Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.* God works change in us, and we intentionally strive, with the help of the Holy Spirit and the direction of the Word, to live godly lives.

In light of that, we must not forget, as we often do, that sanctification moves in two directions. We often focus on putting to death remaining corruption in our lives, but we often fail to consider that sanctification also includes the active pursuit of all the good and righteous things God calls us to. We anticipate that day when sin will plague us no more. In the meantime, let us learn more and more to hate what God hates, and to love what He loves, actively pursuing Christlikeness as the Lord works in us what is pleasing in His sight.