



UPHELD

Jan 24th, 2021

Father, sanctify them...

GO DEEPER

Opener: What did you understand "sanctification" to mean prior to this week's message?

"Holiness is not simply being free from sin, it is being free from sin, so that God can use you for His purposes and for his glory." What do you find the most challenging about this definition of being "holy?"

Jesus Christ came to set us free from the bondage of sin. He came to break the yoke of slavery to sin where we each act as gods in our own eyes. In what ways do you usurp God's place in your life? In what area(s) of your life is this most apparent? In what area of your life is this not a challenge? (eg. finances, marriage, work, relationships, time management)

According to John 17:17-19, what or where is our source for sanctification and holiness?

In this week's sermon, we learn that "God, who is holy, by the sheer glory of his presence renders *the place* holy." As believers, you are called to be God's dwelling place (1 Corinthians 6:19), your bodies are to be offered as living sacrifices for his use and for his glory (Romans 12:1). What is the link between sanctification, holiness, mission, and the Holy Spirit's presence dwelling within you?

"Christ's sanctification highlights his character of holiness and brings focus to his priority of mission." Had you thought about the relationship between holiness and mission before? How do you think about it now? How does this challenge your understanding of the Christian life?



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In John 17:19 Jesus says, "For them, I sanctify myself." Our sermon this week teaches that, "At one level it is nothing more than Jesus' determination to co-operate with the Father's sanctification of him." How does this apply to you?

To be sanctified is, in a sense, the process of being made ready, and set apart as holy for God's purposes. The work of being sanctified belongs to God. It is the moment by moment, day by day work of the Spirit that readies us to accomplish God's purposes and mission in this world.

In what ways have you experienced the "moment by moment, day by day work of the Spirit" in your life? Share an experience of how this intimacy with Jesus led you to accomplish his mission/purpose through you.

Read 1 Corinthians 9:22-27. What is the apostle Paul saying about sanctification in this passage? What are some ways that you "run aimlessly" in life? What changes can be made in your life to sharpen your focus on Christ and his work of sanctification & holiness in you?

John 17 reminds us that Jesus is interceding for us. Our holiness is possible because of Christ's prayers for us. Write out a prayer that expresses (or asks for) faith and trust in God and your willingness to follow Jesus in obedience.

Summit's vision is *to become a family of loving communities that intentionally follow Jesus and sacrificially express his transforming presence in the world.* What role does sanctification play in making this vision a reality? What role do you play?