

"MY UTMOST FOR HIS HIGHEST"

Based on the works of Oswald Chambers

1 Thessalonians 4:3a,b 7/22/20

Life Group Curriculum

"Sanctification"

... *This is the will of God, even your sanctification..*

SHARE AN EXPERIENCE:

Can anyone in the group think of some aspect of your life, whether it is a skill, job, hobby, sport, that you didn't want to get any better at? As in, you as good at that thing as you want to be and couldn't possibly achieve anything greater from it. Can anyone relate to this?

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Last week we talked about being in debt to Christ. Has anyone in the group managed to pay Christ back this week? Probably not, huh? Well that leads us to this week's discussion on **Sanctification**. This is not a one-time event but a lifelong process. When we give our life to Christ we become **Justified** by His sacrifice, then from that moment on we are in the process of **Sanctification** until the moment we leave this life and go to be with the Lord where we will be **Glorified!!!!!!** Sounds like an amazing journey that we are on!

Let's dig deeper.

For your convenience, here is a definition that might be helpful for this study:

Sepulchral – adj. - of, relating to, or serving as a tomb. of or relating to burial.

Answer as many questions as time allows:

1. After reading this passage, discuss what stood out most to you.

2. Someone in the group look up the definition(s) of the word sanctification. Discuss as a group what sanctification means to you. Who performs this act or process? What is our role in sanctification? What is God's part? How does the topic of death play into being sanctified while we are still living? Using the definition provided above, discuss how being "sepulchral" relates to our process of sanctification.

3. God wants to be ONE with us! What and who is standing in the way of that being a reality? Discuss with the group and see if there are common factors amongst you and talk about ways to remove the obstacles. Oswald wrote, "Sanctification is not something Jesus Christ puts into me: it is *Himself* in me." What do we need to remove or die to in order to make room for Jesus in our lives today!!!?

Supporting Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 4:3a,b; Romans 6:19-22, 8:29, 12:2; Ephesians 5:27; 1 Corinthians 1:30

MEMORY VERSE: Hebrews 12:14 – "Continually pursue peace with everyone, and the sanctification without which no one will [ever] see the Lord."

Prayer:

- Pray for Healing over the entire land from pandemics, violence and hatred.
- Pray for Salvations!!! Pray for the wandering souls in our lives as well, for them to return to the Truth.
- Pray for God to cultivate an unwavering loyalty in you. Pray that God would take the prime spot of your attention and affections so that He may bless all else that is dear to you.
- Ask God to reveal to you how you can be used by HIM to serve HIS Kingdom!
- Pray for our pastors, and all pastors who are making the big decisions during this time for the church.
- Pray that in all we do, in all we are, in all we receive, and all we go through in life, God is Glorified and lifted up so that others would see Him through it all!!!

July 22nd

Sanctification

This is the will of God, even your sanctification. 1 Thess. 4:3.

The Death Side. In sanctification God has to deal with us on the death side as well as on the life side. Many of us spend so much time in the place of death that we get sepulchral. There is always a battle royal before sanctification, always something that tugs with resentment against the demands of Jesus Christ. Immediately the Spirit of God begins to show us what sanctification means, the struggle begins. "If any man come to Me, and hate not ... his own life, he cannot be My disciple."

The Spirit of God in the process of sanctification will strip me until I am nothing but 'myself,' that is the place of death. Am I willing to be 'myself,' and nothing more—no friends, no father, no brother, no self-interest, simply ready for death? That is the condition of sanctification. No wonder Jesus said: "I came not to send peace, but a sword." This is where the battle comes, and where so many of us faint. We refuse to be identified with the death of Jesus on this point. 'But it is so stern,' we say; "He cannot wish me to do that." Our Lord *is* stern; and He does wish me to do that.

Am I willing to reduce myself simply to 'me,' determinedly to strip myself of all my friends think of me, of all I think of myself, and to hand that simple naked self over to God? Immediately I am, He will sanctify me wholly, and my life will be free from earnestness in connection with everything but God.

When I pray—"Lord, show me what sanctification means for me," He will show me. It means being made one with Jesus. Sanctification is not something Jesus Christ puts into me: it is *Himself* in me.¹

¹ Chambers, O. (1986). [*My utmost for his highest: Selections for the year*](#). Grand Rapids, MI: Oswald Chambers Publications; Marshall Pickering.