

Consecration, Sanctification and Deeper Union with God

- I. Intro
- II. At the end of the year I spend in Time of reflection-
 - a. Self-reflection vs. Holy Spirit reflection are different (what you highlight vs. what He highlights)
 - b. Holy Spirit will bring up moments of faithfulness that you may have forgotten
 - c. Gratitude, strengthening of inner man to prepare for next year
- III. And there is only one question I ask myself at the end of each year: **Have I come into deeper union with Christ?**
 - a. **Spiritually stagnant years and decades are entirely possible (free will)**
 - i. We have more **memories** under our belt but our thought patterns are the same, our “hot buttons” are the same, irritations, relationships...same ole same ole because we have not welcomed **Christ to touch any of those areas so we can then walk it out in a new way**
- IV. And the invitation is there: I’ve watched people in my life burn brighter for the Lord year after year after year. They only ever get more Christlike.
- V. The heart of God burns as brightly for them as it does for you
 - a. Jesus, your great high priest not only died on a cross but even now He stands before the Father making intercession for you continually
- VI. Jesus burns for oneness with you. You are perfectly suited for full possession by Christ.
- VII. So...why doesn’t the bride of Christ look like that? Why so callous? Why so dull and sleepy at times? Do we sit back and wait for God to come to us? How loud would He need to speak to be heard over your TV? Music? News? Podcast?
- VIII. Christ burns for you, and you are perfectly suited for oneness with Him but:
- IX. **He will possess us at the rate we are willing to die to self.**
 - a. ²⁴ ... “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself..
 - b. I feel in more recent decades there has been a move of God toward real intimacy. But the biggest reason we haven’t seen it come to greater fruition is because many have left consecration and sanctification by the wayside.
 - i. If you don’t know these two words- they are an absolute gift. They don’t come in a shiny package with a bow. They encompass a purifying and deeper death to self. But if you hold their hands and don’t let go, they will be your greatest companions in your journey to deeper oneness with Christ.

- X. Consecration vs. Sanctification
- a. Same Hebrew word (KahDASH) in the OT but when you read the full context of when they appear you see the difference
 - b. Joshua 3:5 The word consecrate appears in the book of Joshua
 - c. Spoken by Joshua during the last step of Israel's journey out of Egypt and into the Promised Land
 - d. But there is one last hurdle the Israelites must face and it's the Jordan river which was conveniently in its springtime flooding season when the Lord brings them there
 - e. **Let's Go to Joshua 3**
 - f. LODGED there for 3 days in front of this river
 - i. They had a promise and an impossibility and had to sit with it
 - 1. One of two things happen when sitting with an impossibility: your mind will either fixate on the river or your mind will fixate on the Lord
 - 2. Don't focus on the promise but on the Lord who is faithful and capable no matter how impossible it appears
 - g. Listen to what comes out of the mouth of Joshua after he sits in front of this river for 3 days

XI. Joshua 3:5 Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you

- XII. Key Things to Note
- a. Consecrate means to set apart
 - b. Consecrate *yourselves*
 - i. Consecration = action step by us
 - ii. "What was implied in this command we are not informed; but it is likely that it was the same as that given by Moses, [Exodus 19:10-14](#). They were to wash themselves and their garments
 - iii. They were physically washing but it was also mental and spiritual
 - iv. Washing involves getting any dirt from the journey off before proceeding
 - v. You are reflecting on the fact that the Lord desires you and is setting you apart for Himself and He's going to move on your behalf
 - vi. The Lord wanted them walking into the promised land in fresh clothes
 - 1. **There are times when the Lord wants to bring you into a new territory with Him, and He doesn't want you focused on your stinky clothes from the past**
 - 2. The stink distracts you from the new thing that He is doing

c. *Will do wonders*

- i. When the Lord calls His people to a time of consecration it is because He wants to make a move amongst His people and draw them into deeper union with Himself
- ii. Hope and anticipation are meant to pair with the call to consecration

XIII. Sanctification –

a. First time it's mentioned Genesis 2:3

- i. ³And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified (made it holy) it: because in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

XIV. Sanctification = To Make Holy

a. John Wesley's definition: being filled with perfect love

b. God is perfect love and God is the Holy-Maker

XV. What We've Seen God Sanctify in the old testament

- a. Day of the week, land (around the burning bush), objects...
- b. When it comes to objects that were holy...objects that were holy had to do with their nearness to the presence of God
- c. Tabernacle: the outer court had bronze, The Holy Place had silver and the Holy of Holies where the ark of the covenant and presence of God was, had gold
 - i. Of all metals gold is the most resistant to tarnish and formed in high heat
 - ii. The closer you are to the presence of God the nearer you are to his purifying, sanctifying fire
- d. God also sanctifies people
 - i. God telling Moses about the Sabbath rest **Exodus 31:12-13**
 - ii. ¹³ "Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: 'Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the LORD who sanctifies^[a] you.'
- e. **Our Father in heaven likes to be very clear with his children on roles that are His and roles that are ours. We rest. He sanctifies.**
- f. If you want to participate in holiness, learn to rest from your works
 - i. AND acknowledge God's sanctifying work in you through that state of rest

XVI. Recap:

- i. Consecration = things we can do spiritually, mentally, physically, to set ourselves apart for God to come and touch us

1. It's you showing your agreement for what God wants to do next in you
 - ii. Sanctification = to make holy (or fill with perfect love) and ONLY God can do this!!
- XVII. Old Testament: we see sanctification with a holiness bent to it, let's look at the New Testament to see the connection of holiness and perfect love through Christ's work on the cross for us

Hebrews 10:10 ¹⁰ ... we have been ^(a)sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*.

- a. 1 Corin. 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
 - i. As you receive Christ and are baptized in the Holy Spirit perfect love comes and fills you, **in that new nature you are walking in it changes your desires**

XVIII.

XIX. Hebrews 10:14 ¹⁴ For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being ^(a)sanctified.

1. **Welcome to the mysteries of God: you are sanctified and being sanctified**
2. You are in a new nature and you don't want to sin anymore
3. Example: my conviction in highschool to not swear any more
 - a. Friends noticed (even though I did it seldomly before) they noticed when there was a complete absence
 - b. When you do things differently from others out of obedience to the Lord, people take note**

XX.

- a. And as people are taking note of how you live your life you are showing what sanctification looks like (the Bible says it)
 - i. We are called to walk as children of light and have no fellowship with unfruitful works of darkness but rather **expose** them AS you walk as a child of light- it IS exposing especially to believers who are not yet willing to yield that area of their attitude or behavior to the Lord

- ii. You are showing them what being sanctified looks like
- XXI. Being sanctified makes you different from the world
 - a. Just before Jesus was to be betrayed by Judas and crucified He spent time praying for his disciples and all those who would one day believe in him and pay attention to how much He talks about the world and God's word
- XXII. "10 All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. 11 And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you.
- XXIII. 14 I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.^a 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them^b in the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sake I consecrate myself,^c that they also may be sanctified^d in truth. John 17
 - a. First line- oneness. The ultimate goal of our loving Father, Jesus and Holy Spirit
 - i. Intimacy and sanctification go hand in hand and that's why He moves into speaking over and over of Him not being of the world, and you not being of the world
 - b. Like a ship on the ocean, the ship is in the ocean but the ocean is not in the ship- if it is it will become a sunken ship
 - c. And then we see the power of the Word of God
 - i. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth
 - ii. Who is sanctifying? The Father is sanctifying Christ's disciples (both then and now) through His intercession and by His word
- XXIV. So as we are stepping into this new year, what does it look like for us to consecrate ourselves in anticipation of the move of God and His sanctifying touch that He wants to work through us
 - a. No matter how long you have been walking with the Lord, what does deeper sanctification in the Lord look like for you?
- XXV. The most common new years resolutions are health, personal finance, and self improvement
 - a. The way you eat and treat your body, the way you spend money, the way you give money, and your overall well being as a person all of those things are outward expressions of your proximity to God- to the one who sanctifies all He comes in contact with

- i. Ex: tabernacle metals
 - ii. All you need to do is move closer to God
- XXVI. When you are spending time with God, alone, just you and Him, whether you feel anything or not there is a faithful fire bringing up the dross and you just push it aside in your new nature
 - a. It no longer has the grip on you that it used to have
 - b. But be in agreement that it no longer has the grip on you that it used to
- XXVII. And in all this we are becoming like our Savior
 - a. Where to start?
 - i. Take communion
 - ii. Receive the body and blood of Christ
 - iii. Repent as Holy Spirit leads you
 - iv. Let Him wash you
 - v. Let Him sanctify you
 - 1. All you need to do is bring your heart before the alter
 - b. What happens next?
 - i. As you taste of the Lord's perfect love there will come more that you desire to do away with to draw closer
 - ii. Things that never convicted you before start to surface
- XXVIII. Give it to the Lord, and then let Him touch and sanctify you further and you will consecrate more- **it is a cycle**
- XXIX. LAST THING
 - a. **You want to run with others who are also leaning into being sanctified continually by Christ**
 - b. The revivalist, John Wesley, deeply believed in the power of radically honest small groups to further the process of sanctification in believers
 - i. Overcoming hypocrisy in Christianity only comes with radical honesty and repentance amongst the body of Christ

- XXX. What known sins have you committed since our last meeting?
- XXXI. What temptations have you met with?
- XXXII. How were you delivered?
- XXXIII. Are you keeping any secrets?
- XXXIV. Am I honest in all my acts and words, or do I exaggerate?
- XXXV. Am I a slave to fashion, friends, work, or habits?
- XXXVI. Do I grumble and complain constantly?
- XXXVII. Is there anyone whom I fear, dislike, disown, criticize, hold resentment toward or disregard? If so, what am I going to do about it?
- XXXVIII. Am I jealous, impure, critical, irritable, touchy or distrustful?

- XXXIX. How can you know if you have a tendency to exaggerate if its never asked. And how can you walk it out in accountability if you are a lone ranger your whole life.
- XL. These types of questions tackled in safe settings with a small number of others embodies the beautiful work of continual sanctification in the bride
- XLI.
- XLII. **Facing the things of the world with a new nature and walking it out.**
- XLIII. There's no need to defend yourself to God, He already knows the truth of the state of your heart and He wants to touch it. You trying to change yourself is futile. You giving your heart to God and responding to His touch is where true change happens
- XLIV. Start with communion and the alter and I bless you to find people in your life to run with and be continually honest with in your process of being sanctified in the Lord

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- I. Read Exodus 31:12-13 and discuss the relationship between Sabbath rest and remembering it is the Lord who sanctifies us (purifies us).
 - a. Do you take a Sabbath rest once a week? What does that look like for you?
How have you grown in your relationship with God through Sabbath rest?
2. Read Joshua 3:5 which encompassed the Israelites washing themselves and their garments before entering the Promised Land. Is there anything the Lord wants to wash off of you so that the stink of last year (or previous years) does not distract you from the deeper union God is calling you into this year?
3. Scroll down (to the next page) to read through John Wesley's small group questions. Take a minute to read over them and then answer these questions:
 1. How do these questions assist in the process of being continually sanctified in Christ while also combating hypocrisy in the bride of Christ?
 2. Do you think you would live your life differently if you knew you would be asked these questions regularly by people you trust?
 3. Do you have people you trust to ask these questions to regularly?

JOHN WESLEY SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Am I consciously or unconsciously creating the impression that I am better than I am? In other words, am I a hypocrite?
2. Am I honest in all my acts and words, or do I exaggerate?
3. Do I confidentially pass onto another what was told me in confidence? Can I be trusted?
4. Am I a slave to dress, friends, work, or habits?
5. Am I self-conscious, self-pitying, or self-justifying?
6. Did the Bible live in me today?
7. Do I give it time to speak to me everyday?
8. Am I enjoying prayer?
9. When did I last speak to someone about my faith?
10. Do I pray about the money I spend?
11. Do I get to bed on time and get up on time?
12. Do I disobey God in anything?
13. Do I insist upon doing something about which my conscience is uneasy?
14. Am I defeated in any part of my life?
15. Am I jealous, impure, critical, irritable, touchy or distrustful?
16. How do I spend my spare time?
17. Am I proud?
18. Do I thank God that I am not as other people, especially as the Pharisee who despised the publican?
19. Is there anyone whom I fear, dislike, disown, criticize, hold resentment toward or disregard? If so, what am I going to do about it?
20. Do I grumble and complain constantly?
21. Is Christ real to me?

1. What known sins have you committed since our last meeting?
2. What temptations have you met with?
3. How were you delivered?

