

Discussion Questions

Date: August 2nd, 2026

Preacher: Josh Ratliff

Sermon Outline

Talking Points

Sanctification | 1 Pet. 1:16; Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Thess. 5:23

Sanctification is God's work of grace in us that sets us apart to love and live holy like Jesus.

Holiness, the Expectation (Lev. 19:2; 1 Pet. 1:16)

- God's people are set apart to reflect His holy character. (Lev. 19:2; 1 Pet. 1:16)
- Sanctification is God's will and God's promise to believers. (1 Thess. 4:3-4; 5:23)
- **Question:** Where are you struggling to see your experience align with God's will and His promises?

Sanctification, the Experience (Heb. 10:10, 14; 2 Cor. 7:1; Rom. 6:19; 12:1-2)

- Sanctification is possible only through the grace of Jesus Christ. (Heb. 10:10, 14; 13:12; 1 Cor. 6:11)
- Sanctification becomes our reality as we receive it by faith and cooperate with God's grace. (2 Cor. 7:1; Rom. 6:19; 12:1-2)
- **Question:** How is God leading you to seek this grace in your life?

Bottom Line: God gives us everything we need to be holy as He is holy.

* What comes to mind when you hear the word "holiness"?

* Why is it easier for us to pursue information and "how-to" steps rather than looking at the motives and desires of our heart?

* What is or can be daunting about the idea of "full holiness"? Why do you think we are often settling for partial sanctification when God's word promises us otherwise?

* Where are there gaps in your life between God's will for you and your actual experiences? What areas in your life do you tend to be reluctant to submitting to God?

* How can remembering Christ's work on the cross keep us from falling into legalism or a works mentality when it comes to our sanctification?

* How do we know when our "efforts" are healthy and are working alongside the grace given to us by God?

* What is the biggest barrier or distraction in your life that is preventing you from spending time with the Lord in prayer and in His word?

* How have you seen God work through community, groups, or relationships to draw you closer to Him?

If you are not in close relationship with others in Christ, what steps can you take this week to start building those discipling relationships?

Understanding Scripture

1. Read the passage aloud.

- Question: How would the original audience have understood this passage?
- Question: What was God's desire for them?

2. Reread key verse(s) aloud.

- Question: What does this teach us about the human soul, desires, or behavior?
- Question: What does this teach us about the nature, desires, or behavior of God?

3. Ask if anything is difficult to understand in the passage, or simply point it out yourself.

- Back up from the confusing verse and reread the whole section slowly—highlight the author's flow of thought.
- Ask everyone, "What are some possible interpretations?" Encourage curiosity!
- If needed, provide clarification, but admit if you don't have a satisfactory explanation, and volunteer to research answers. Share your findings over text or at the next meeting.

4. Summarize the passage in 1-3 sentences to refocus the group ("Okay, so far we've seen in Amos...")

- Question: What does this say about our relationship with God and/or each other?
- Question: How do the teachings, actions, or person of Jesus shed light on this passage?

Prayer Requests

