



We move tonight to the Old Gate which speaks of Sanctification

- The need to separate ourselves from the attitudes – activities and affairs of this world

This goes so deeply into what our theme for 2018 is: #Shine – let your world see the Light that is within you

Matthew 5:14-16

You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden

Philippians 2:15

That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world

Matthew 6:10

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as [it is] in heaven.

- We are to live out the Kingdom of Heaven on this earth
- The best way to do that is to live with a marked distinction between the Kingdom in which we spiritually live and the kingdom in which we physically live

God has never desired for us to embrace the things of this world

1John 2:15

Love not the world, neither the things [that are] in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

For all that [is] in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away...

Matthew 6:19-20

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

This is what God is calling you to in this last hour:

Isaiah 58:12

And [they that shall be] of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach

The word “breach” literally means a broken wall

- There has been a breach of doctrine
- A breach of the anointing of the Holy Ghost
- A breach of pure unadulterated ministry in this generation
- It is the desire of this pastor to see this church restore and rebuild that breach and make it real again
- When that happens – then the previous verse will be a reality

Isaiah 58:11

The LORD will guide you continually, And satisfy your soul in drought, And strengthen your bones; You shall be like a watered garden, And like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.

What is Sanctification?

1Thessalonians 5:23

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and [I pray God] your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sanctification is not about giving something up – it is about taking on something better

The word “sanctify” is the Greek word “hagiazō,” meaning to separate from profane things and dedicate to God

- It is simply a state of separation from the world and to God

Sanctification Principle #1: Positional Sanctification

- There is a positional separation that happens the moment that we are born again

1Corinthians 1:30

But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God-- and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—

- The moment you are saved – you are no longer a slave to the world – you are separated from sin

Romans 6:17-18

But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. 18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness

One of the best ways to illustrate this is to look at what Paul wrote to the Corinthian Church

1Corinthians 1:2

To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called [to be] saints

1Corinthians 3:1

And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?

So the question is: How can they be sanctified and carnal at the same time

- The answer is quite simple: They were sanctified in their position – yet there were still practical areas of their life in which they were still carnal and needed the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives

Just because you are born again does not mean you will not struggle with issues in your life

Sanctification Principle #2: Progressive or practical sanctification

- Positional sanctification is our standing before God
- Practical sanctification is our standing before the world

The reality is that we have two natures within us – the flesh and the Spirit

Galatians 5:16

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

- The nature that we feed the most is the nature that becomes the strongest in our lives

How Am I Sanctified?

First of all – realize that it is an ongoing work within your life

- You are going to mess up at times – there will be times in which you lose your temper – you give into the flesh
- The good news is: there is always grace and forgiveness for sin

1John 2:1

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

Having said that – we can live at a spiritual level that is above sin – that is the will of God

Many of the wrong choices you are making in life is because you keep giving in to that old way of thinking – you have not sanctified or set apart your mind

The question is – how do we do that?

Sanctification Means #1: You are sanctified by the Word of God

John 17:17

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth

- There is nothing more powerful than the written Word of God
- The very nature of the Word of God is one that divides

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God [is] quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart

Note where the division is: Soul and Spirit

- Soul is that carnal emotional part of us that will lead us astray every time if we allow it to dominate our lives
- The Spirit is that God-consciousness part of our being

If we want to be spiritual people – we will be people of the Word – because this is the means by which our spirit is strengthened and separated from the carnal nature of our being

Psalm 1:1-3

Blessed [is] the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight [is] in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

If you are struggling with issues in your life tonight

- Get in the Word of God
- Let the Word empower you and strengthen you
- It is food for your spirit because it is inspired by the Holy Spirit

Think about this: the Word of God is inspired by the Holy Spirit

- Therefore – the more of the Word you get in you – the more of the Spirit you will get in you

Everything we do must have precedence in the Word of God

- This is the revealed will and mind of God to us
- There will be no more new revelations
- Now there will be illumination – there is a huge difference

Illumination: when the Spirit of God brings to light that which God has already revealed through His Word

- Scripture that suddenly leaps off the page at you
- You may have read it 100 times
- But God has seen how you need it in your life at this moment
- So He has spoken to you through His revealed Word
- It has been illuminated by His Spirit speaking to your spirit

When you begin to live out what is contained and written within the Word of God – it will by nature divide you or separate you from the world

John 15:18-19

If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before [it hated] you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you

John 17:15-16

I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

Some of you are facing this right now – there is a separation that is taking place in your life from some of the relationships you had in the world

Don't be concerned if the world thinks you are different or strange...you should be concerned when the world doesn't think you are different but rather approves of what you are doing

Sanctification Means #2: You Are Sanctified By the Spirit of God

Let me just remind you of the tri-partite nature of man

- Body – Soul – Spirit

If I am going to live a sanctified life – I will do so by being a Spirit led individual

Your emotions are like the weather – unpredictable and always changing

- Decisions based on my physical passions will always lead me into fulfilling the desires of the flesh

This is why it is imperative that you be filled with the Holy Spirit

- Because it is the Holy Spirit Who will reveal the mind of God to us

Romans 8:27

And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what [is] the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to [the will of] God.

We need to think like God thinks

- It is the Holy Spirit Who will empower us to destroy the works of the flesh in my life
- It is the Holy Spirit Who is the sanctifying agent sent by God

John 16:13

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, [that] shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.