# The Core DNA of the Church
# -Discipleship-



# Ephesians 4
## Exhortations for Discipleship in the Church

# Reviewing the Pauline Style in Ephesians

- Chapters 1-3 focus on many Foundational Truths which describe and prescribe one's new eternal and irrevocable 'standing' in Christ before God.
- Chapters 4-6, exhort believers to live-out and walk in unity as the Church in light of those Foundational Truths. We call that - 'application of truth'!
- Interestingly, scholars have described these 2 book halves in various ways:

| | |
|---|---|
| Doctrine | Duty |
| Position | Practice |
| Belief | Behavior |
| Spiritual Wealth | Spiritual Walk |
| Character | Conduct |
| Theology | Ethics |
| The Finished Work of Christ | The Faithful Walk in Christ |
| Identity | Responsibility* |



*https://www.preceptaustin.org/ephesians

# Paul's Sanctification Ethic expressed in Ephesians 4

- This 2nd half of the book begins with a two-fold call:
  1) to walk in unity as the church, and 2) exhortations for them to live out their lives in accordance with their new identities and giftedness in Christ. Ep.4:1-6
- Paul used the word 'walk' 5x in those exhortations: "…to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, …" Ep.4:1, 17; 5:2, 8, 15
- Christ's dispensation of Grace to each one to serve the body of Christ Ep.4:7
- *He would build His church by giving gifts and through discipling those who would in turn disciple others to use their gifts for the edification of the body of Christ.!* Eph.2:20; 4:11-12; Mt.16:18; 1Pt.2:4-5; 4:10

**Have you ever considered that you were at some point discipled by Christ?**

# Discipleship the means - Sanctification the process

A different view of Ephesians 4:11–13(NKJV):

*[11] And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, [12] for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, [13] till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;*

*I see v. 11-12 as a description of how Christ would build His Church!*

*He would give gifts to all and some in particular to those who would in turn disciple others to use their gifts for the edification of the body of Christ.*

**Christ has characterized discipleship as the core foundation of His Church!**

# Discipleship the means - Sanctification the process

Paul is known for making strong calls for sanctification:

Col. 1:10 so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Col. 2:6 Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him,
7 rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

1 Thessalonians 2:12 (ESV)
12 we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

# Discipleship the means - Sanctification the process

Again, from last week, a passage with a strong call for sanctification:

Ephesians 4:13 (NKJV)

*13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;*

**This prominent passage seems to be the goal of sanctification!**

**But, how and when will/can this happen to me?**

**It becomes a *conundrum* for me to attain to such a stature!**

**Yet, even Paul wrote 5 yrs. earlier of his own conundrum in Ro.7:14-25**

# Paul's Conundrum

Romans 7:13–20 (NKJV)

13 Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful. 14 For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. 15 For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. 16 If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. 17 But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. 18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. 19 For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. 20 Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

# Paul's Conundrum

*Romans 7:21-25 (NKJV)*

*21 I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good.*
*22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.*

**Paul certainly had *faith* that Christ would deliver him! *But . .***
**. . . for me, this a conundrum that begs the question . . .**

**How, and in what ways, does Christ deliver Paul?**
**I want*(need?)* to know specifics!**

# Yet, another sanctification conundrum

Ephesians 4:14-16 (NKJV)

*14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.*

**What are some words/phrases to describe this passage?**

*mature stable discerning shrewd gentleness*
*pursuit-of-Christ-likeness secure-in-its-functioning*
*efficacious-unity progressive-growth-in-love*

**In what ways can/does one appropriate these attributes?**

# Untangling the Sanctification Conundrum *(I pray🙏)*

"This process of becoming progressively more righteous (holy) in his or her daily experience is not automatic. It involves growth and requires the believer to cooperate with God in order to produce holiness in daily life.

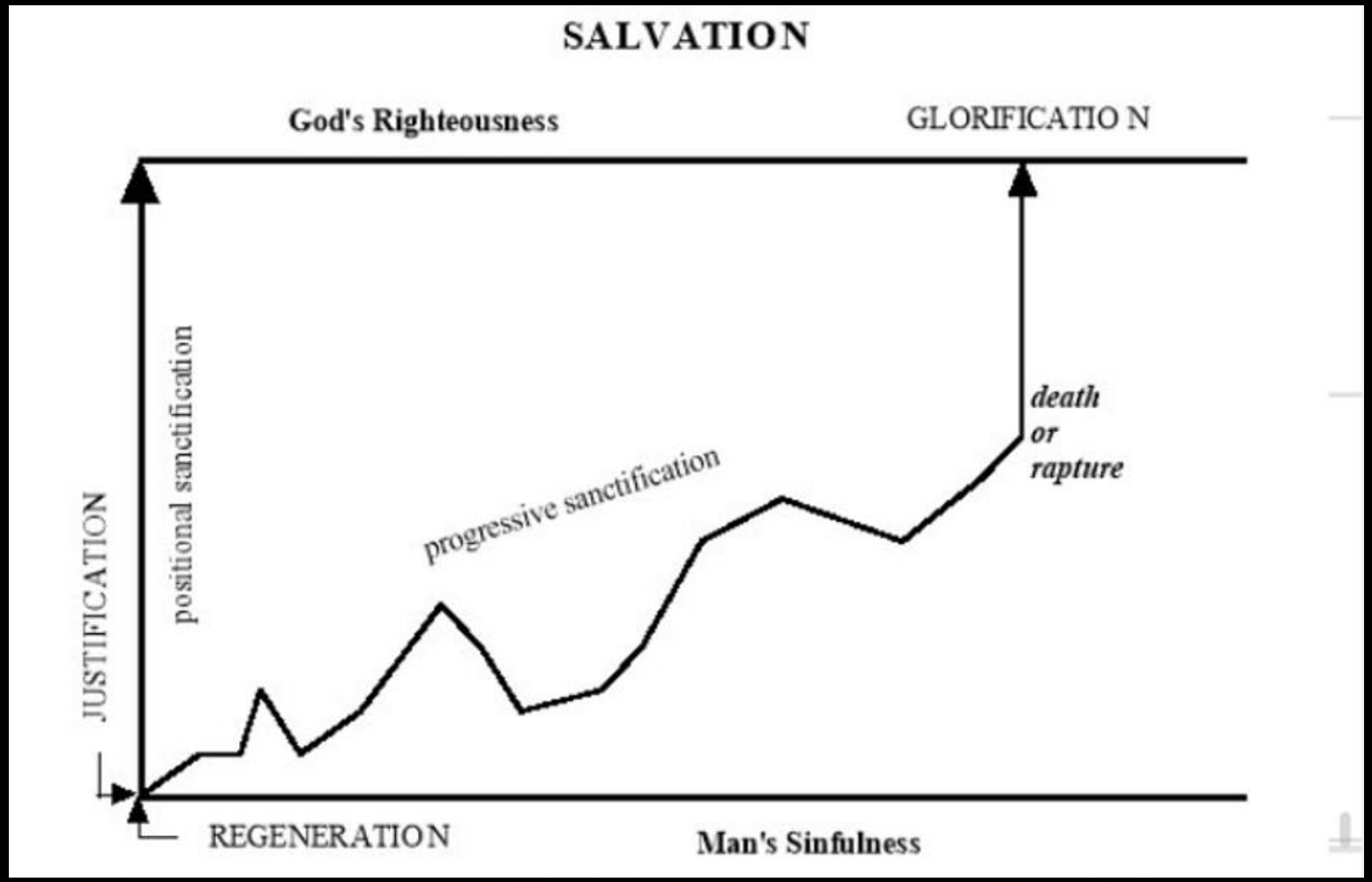
God leads the believer and provides the enablement for him or her to follow, but the believer must choose to follow and must make use of the resources for sanctification that God provides.

Our progressive sanctification will end at death or the Rapture, whichever occurs first. Then the believer will experience glorification." Then his experiential condition will finally conform to his legal standing before God. He or she will then be completely righteous as well as having been declared righteous. God will remove our sinful nature and will conform our lives fully to His will (Ro.8:29). "*

*See Ryrie, *So Great …*, pp. 152-54

# Untangling the Sanctification Conundrum

## Dr. Tom Constable – Graphic chart –Salvation encompassing justification, regeneration, sanctification, glorification.



# Untangling the Sanctification Conundrum

## God did not just save us without making provision for our sanctification.

In both the concluding chapters of ***So Great Salvation*** and expanded in his theological work ***Basic Theology*** —Dr. Charles Ryrie declares that God does not leave believers to their own power after justification. Instead, He provides specific divine resources and agents to empower a holy life.

In other words, God has designed agents and resources for the purposes of sanctification.

So let us explore who and what Dr. Ryrie says about those agencies and resources. We shall look at 7 of them and I have added an 8th

# Who/what are the agencies/resources involved in sanctification? *

1. Our Father is one (John 17:17; 15:2)
2. Our Lord Jesus is another (John 17:15; Ephesians 5:26–27)
3. The Holy Spirit is another (2 Corinthians 3:18)
4. The believer's efforts are not optional.
   - God's part in sanctification must never lead to a quietism that fails to involve the believer's activity (Romans 6:19; 2 Corinthians 7:1; Galatians 5:16)
   - Indeed, every command to the believer implies the necessity of his involvement as part of the process.
   - Some verses combine the believer's part and God's part in the process of sanctification (Romans 8:13; Philippians 2:13; Colossians 1:29)

*Adapted from "So Great Salvation" by Charles Ryrie Page 140-141 Kindle Edition

# Who and what are the agencies/resources involved in sanctification?*

***"…certain means or things can be used <u>both</u> <u>by</u> <u>God</u> and <u>by</u> <u>the</u> <u>believer</u> to help this growth in holiness.**

5. Surely the Word of God stands in the first rank of importance (John 17:17).
6. Certainly, prayer will aid the process, if praying is done truly in the name of Christ.
   - That simply means praying so that the Lord could endorse those prayers, or praying in His will.
   - It means underscoring all our prayers with, as Jesus' own model prayer instructs us,

     "Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10).

*Adapted from "So Great Salvation" by Charles Ryrie Page 140-141 Kindle Edition

# Who and what are the agencies/resources involved in sanctification?*

***"…certain means or things can be used both by God and by the believer to help this growth in holiness.**

7. Actually, every circumstance of life can be reacted to so as to further or hinder the process of sanctification.
   - God can make all things work together for good to those who love Him (Romans 8:28)
   - and we can in everything give thanks, knowing that this is God's will for us (1 Thessalonians 5:18)
   - We could well pray every day that our reactions to the events of that day will be such as to draw us closer to our Lord and never away from Him."*

*Adapted from "So Great Salvation" by Charles Ryrie Page 140-141 Kindle Edition

Who and what are the agencies/resources involved in sanctification?*

**"…certain means or things can be used <u>both</u> <u>by</u> <u>God</u> and <u>by</u> <u>the</u> <u>believer</u> to help this growth in holiness." ***

8. And we know that often Christ works through those who have been <u>discipled</u> to grow & build His church (Eph.4:11-16; Mt.28:19-20; 1 Co. 12:4-6)

It has often been said that it is profitable for a man to have a 'Paul' on one side of him, and a 'Timothy' on the other side."

**Discipleship is the means & Sanctification is the process**

*Adapted from "So Great Salvation" by Charles Ryrie Page 140-141 Kindle Edition

# Sanctification Application Challenge

- Pick one or two Scripture passages and consider how, why, or in what ways, your conduct has changed?
- Pray in such a manner that the Lord would endorse your prayers.
- In what ways could it be spiritually profitable for you to find someone that you could trust to share your sanctification journey with?
- Pray that you might be more and more delighted in the Lord!

Psalm 37:4 (ESV)
4 Delight yourself in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Matthew 6:33 (ESV)
33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,
and all these things will be added to you.

# Next week

Eph.4:17-32

