



Pure, But Sinning | Sanctification and Transformation

Blake Austin | 07.12.26

Opening Prayer

Begin your group time by inviting the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion.

Icebreaker

Share a skill or habit you've been working to improve (exercise, cooking, learning an instrument, etc.). What's been the hardest part about the process?

Sermon Overview (5 minutes)

This week's message focused on the journey from justification (being made right with God) to sanctification (being transformed into Christ's likeness). While we are declared righteous the moment we accept Christ, we are also called into an ongoing process of becoming more like Jesus daily.

Key Scripture: Philippians 3:12-14 (The Message)

Discussion Questions

Section 1: Understanding the Three Tensions of Salvation (15 minutes)

Read: 1 Corinthians 6:11, 2 Peter 3:18, 1 John 3:2-3

1. Pastor Blake described three stages of salvation:

- Justification (freed from sin's penalty - past)

- Sanctification (freed from sin's power - present)
- Glorification (freed from sin's presence - future)

Which stage do you find easiest to understand? Which is hardest to grasp?

2. **Two Types of Christians:** Pastor Blake mentioned two groups:

- Group 1: Saved but stuck (nothing changes after accepting Christ)
- Group 2: Religious but hardened (checking boxes without heart transformation)

Have you ever found yourself in either of these categories? What helped you move forward?

3. Why do you think some Christians settle for justification alone without pursuing sanctification?

Section 2: What Keeps Us From Being Transformed? (20 minutes)

Read: Genesis 3:8-10, John 17:17, Proverbs 29:25

The sermon identified three barriers to sanctification:

1. Hiding from God in shame

- When have you been tempted to hide from God after sinning?
- How does hiding prevent us from experiencing God's transforming grace?

2. Protecting our reputation

- In what areas of life are you most tempted to project a false version of yourself?
- How does the fear of what others think keep us from genuine transformation?

3. Lack of daily surrender

- What does "daily surrender" look like in practical terms?
- What makes it difficult to surrender to God every single day?

Group Challenge: Share one area where you've been hiding or protecting your reputation instead of being honest about your struggles.

Section 3: Stepping Into the Process (25 minutes)

Read: Ezekiel 36:26-27, Luke 13:3, James 5:16, Philippians 2:12-13

Pastor Blake outlined four ways to step into sanctification:

1. Embrace Grace

- How is grace "a power to change" rather than "permission to sin"?
- Share a time when God's grace empowered you to overcome something.

2. Repent, Repent, and Repent Again

- Why is repentance described as a command, not a suggestion?
- Pastor Blake said: "Repenting to God brings forgiveness, but repenting to others brings freedom." What's the difference?
- Do you have someone in your life you can confess sin to and be held accountable by? If not, how can you find that person?

3. Take Heart

- Read this statement: "Though you sin, you are not disqualified from purity."
- Why is this truth so important for Christians to remember?
- When do you most need to hear this encouragement?

4. Put On and Take Off

- **Read:** Ephesians 4:22-24
 - What does it mean practically to "put on" your new identity in Christ each day?
 - What old patterns, thoughts, or behaviors is God asking you to "take off"?
 - What new Christ-like qualities is He calling you to "put on"?
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Personal Reflection (10 minutes)

Take a few minutes of silence for personal reflection. Consider these questions:

1. On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your current pursuit of Christ-likeness?
 2. Pastor Blake shared three accountability questions he asks weekly:
 - How did you feed your flesh?
 - How did you feed your spirit?
 - How did you feed others?
 Answer these honestly for yourself this past week.
 3. What is one specific area where the Holy Spirit is calling you to transformation right now?
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Practical Application

This Week's Challenge:

Choose **ONE** of the following to implement this week:

Option 1: Accountability Partnership

- Identify one trusted person you can meet with regularly
- Set up a weekly or bi-weekly meeting
- Use the three accountability questions from the sermon

Option 2: Daily Spiritual Practice

- Each morning, pray: "Lord, help me put on Christ today and take off my old self"
- Identify one specific thing to "put on" (patience, kindness, self-control, etc.)
- Identify one specific thing to "take off" (anger, gossip, lust, etc.)
- Journal about your progress each evening

Option 3: Confession and Repentance

- Confess a hidden sin to God and to one trusted person this week
- Experience the freedom that comes from bringing darkness into light

Option 4: Scripture Memorization

- Memorize Philippians 2:12-13 or Ephesians 4:22-24
 - Meditate on it daily, asking God to make it real in your life
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Key Takeaways

1. **Salvation is both a moment and a process.** We are justified instantly but sanctified progressively.
 2. **You are already righteous in Christ, AND you are becoming what God says you are.** Both are true simultaneously.
 3. **Sanctification requires participation.** The Holy Spirit does the transforming work, but we must cooperate through repentance, accountability, and daily surrender.
 4. **Purity flows from hope in Christ, not from projecting an image.** We don't have to hide our struggles or protect our reputation.
 5. **The goal is transformation until Christ returns.** This is a lifelong journey that requires endurance through the Holy Spirit.
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Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Prayer Focus:

- Thank God for the gift of justification through Christ
- Ask the Holy Spirit to empower your sanctification
- Pray for courage to be honest about struggles
- Commit to pursuing Christ-likeness together as a group

Group Prayer: Take turns praying for the person on your right, specifically asking God to help them in their journey of transformation.

Before Next Week

- Follow through on your chosen practical application
 - Be prepared to share one way you experienced God's transforming work this week
 - Read Philippians 3 and Romans 6-8 in preparation for next week's discussion
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Leader Notes

- Create a safe, judgment-free environment for honest sharing
- Be prepared to share your own struggles with sanctification
- Have tissues available—this topic can bring up emotional responses
- Consider having contact information for professional Christian counseling available for those dealing with deep struggles
- Follow up with anyone who seems particularly burdened or discouraged