

We Believe
In
The Process
“Sanctification”
Colossians 3:1-10

Today we are talking about a very big word called sanctification. Sanctification is not like justification and adoption where in an instant you are forgiven and adopted as a son and daughter of God through repentance. Sanctification is the process after repentance. It's the process of setting our lives apart to become more and more like Jesus. It is a progression. We want our children to progress and grow and mature into responsible, godly men and women but that does not occur at birth. It is a deliberate process.

Sanctification is a grace driven effort on the part of all believers to make choices that draw them closer to the father. This isn't done by ourselves, it is a work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. So let's look at the blueprints that is laid out for us to follow.

Colossians 3:1-10 “Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, Appears, then you also appear with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: Anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you

have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its creator.”

So I learned a new word this week and I want to teach it to you this morning. The word is **“Vivification.”** It means to be infused with life or renewed life. This is what Colossians 3:1 is describing when it says, **“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ....”** This implies a death and a resurrected new life. It is a refocus, a rebranding and a renewing of a life.

So the first part of sanctification is found in the first four verses of Colossians when it talks about **“setting your mind on things that are above where Christ is seated.”** So what does that look like? Turn with me to **Romans 12:2 “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”** Vivification comes into play when we are renewing our mind.

Now to be clear, renewing your mind cannot simply mean memorizing scripture verses in the Bible. We see Jesus rebuking people who had memorized all of the law but had no clue how to apply it to their lives to bring about life. They had Weaponized the word to get their way. Renewing our minds is a retraining of our minds to what used to be acceptable in our former life to what pleases the heart of God in our new life with him.

Example: when we first moved here I had to retrain my brain to say or write our new address. Before we moved our Address was 125 Phillips Dr. and every time I started to write our new address down it would always come out 125 Phillips Dr. our move to Green Bay changed everything. The renewing our minds is in a sense retraining our minds by saying I don't live there anymore I now live here. The Scriptures talk about taking every thought captive. This is vivification.

There is a desire to want to know him, see him, meditate on him, and have him transform me through and through. This is why the Bible is so important for the child of God, because it reminds us where our new address is and how to get there. It helps to define what is true and what isn't true and believe me we need, in this day and age to be able to determine truth from a Lie.

The next idea is, here comes another big word, **mortification: this means the act of subduing one's bodily desires.** This is the second part of Colossians 3. Putting to death sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Also getting rid of anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. This is mortification.

So vivification and mortification are working at the same time in your life. As we are renewing our minds and setting our hope on Christ we are also putting to death what is sinful in us. This is putting the lion to death in our life. We do not tame our sin or try to make it behave or control it but rather we seek to put it to death. The moment we feel like we have our lion tamed is the moment it devours us out of nowhere.

The Bible, in this text clearly says that there are things we need to put to death in our lives. It is very specific. Things like sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these the wrath of God is coming.

So now we have a list and now we have to put it into practice. Let's go back to my old address for a moment. I don't live there anymore. I live at a new address in my way home is different. At some point you will have a Pull towards sexual immorality or anger or greed and in this moment we are not going to make a left turn toward 125 Phillips Dr. any longer because we don't live there any more. I have a new address

and my new home looks completely different. Life is to the right and death is to the left and I'm choosing life.

There has now become a point for me that I no longer have to think about my new address anymore. There's a season of where the new mind will get renewed where you're not battling yourself all the time. It's a progression. It's no longer this epic battle! This is not to say the battle is won because There will be new battles to face.

So we see the clear definitions of what we need to put to death in our lives but what about the morally neutral things in our life? Those things that aren't expressly sinful but by our participation in them robs us and causes us to drift from God.

Stay with me now it's about to get good. Look at **Hebrews 12:1-2**
"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily in tangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith."

So the question is, are there weights that are tripping you up? You don't have a Bible verse that says don't do it but you also see that it's tripping you up in your walk with Christ. Bringing condemnation robbing you of joy in the Lord. What is your list? Don't look at me like you don't Have a list! We say things like, "there's nothing wrong with that, or where does it say that in the Bible?" If what you are doing is affecting your love for the Lord and your focus on him then I don't know why you don't want to cut that out of your life and put that lion to death for good!

If drinking is a hurdle for you and it causes you to go to the bars and it opens those old tendencies up again, then remember we don't tame

Lions, we put them to death! Don't tell me you like going to the bars because of relationships you have there or you like watching the games there. If it trips you up, then cut it off! Develop new relationships at the church you are growing in and watch the game at my house. Don't tolerate anything that causes you to take the focus off of your first love!! God is saying I've got more for you than this. Don't cover your stuff up and don't justify it. That's what we do on social media.

And lastly, sanctification cannot be done by yourself. You need community. I can't tell you how important Sunday morning is to the life of a believer. If you're not faithful to show up on Sundays, then you will never see the value of community. Community is what happens beyond Sundays. It's developed in small groups, women's groups, men's groups, and dinners at each other's homes. It's iron sharpening iron. And as we participate in this thing called community and church God begins to bring new relationships that bring life and draws us closer to the father.