

LIFE DURING LOCKDOWN #6

“Growing in Christ”

Philippians 2:12-18

The Philippians had some issues to work through in their fellowship. They had some conflict that broke up the unity in the church, and this was affecting their witness to the community. Don't we also have issues? Aren't there times when we have personal conflicts with people? What is the solution to this problem? It is maturing in our walk with the Lord. All believers are in a process of growth known as sanctification. God is taking us through a life-long process of purging us from sin and making us more like the Lord Jesus.

#1. SANCTIFICATION IS A LIFE-LONG PROCESS OF TRANSFORMATION, v. 12

- A. Salvation is synonymous with sanctification
- B. Sanctification (*Gr. Hagiasmos*)
- C. Sanctification is a separation from sin
- D. Sanctification is a life-long process where we become like Christ, Rom 8:28-30, Mat 5:48

#2. SANCTIFICATION REQUIRES THE BELIEVER'S WORK IN THE CONTEXT OF THEIR FELLOWSHIP, v. 12

- A. Sanctification requires obedience
- B. Sanctification requires “working out”
- C. Sanctification requires practicing spiritual disciplines
- D. Sanctification is a corporate matter, 1:27, 4:2-3, Eph 4:11-16
- E. Sanctification requires fear and trembling (Exo 20:18)

#3. SANCTIFICATION REQUIRES GOD'S WORK, v. 13

- A. God works (*Gr. Energeo*) in you to will
- B. God works in you to act
- C. God works in you according to his good purposes

#4. SANCTIFICATION IS A COOPERATIVE EFFORT BETWEEN GOD AND MAN, vv. 12-13

- A. God's work is dominant, man's work is secondary
- B. God produces fruit in us as we abide in Jesus, John 15:1-5
- C. God the Spirit is crucial to maturing in Christ, Eph 5:18
- D. God the Spirit produces fruit in us, Gal, 5:16-26, 1 Thess 4:3-7

#5. SANCTIFICATION RESULTS IN ELIMINATING DIVISIVE BEHAVIOR, v. 14

- A. Do “everything” without complaining
- B. Do “everything” without arguing
- C. An allusion to the Israelites wandering in the desert
- D. A sure way to grieve the Spirit

#6. SANCTIFICATION RESULTS IN AN EFFECTIVE WITNESS TO THE COMMUNITY, vv. 15-16a

- A. Sanctification enables us to become blameless, v. 15
- B. Sanctification enables us to become pure, v. 15
- C. Sanctification enables us to act like children of God, v. 15
- D. Sanctification enables us to be without fault, v. 15
- E. Sanctification enables us to be distinct from a crooked & depraved generation, v. 15
- F. Sanctification enables us to shine like stars, v. 15
- G. Sanctification enables us to hold out the word of life, v. 16a

#7. SANCTIFICATION RESULTS IN ENDURING TO THE DAY OF CHRIST, v. 16

- A. Paul will be proud of the Philippians at Christ's return
- B. Paul's labor will not have been in vain, 1:6
- C. Paul is the drink offering
- D. Paul sees the Philippians as the sacrifice he is poured out on
- E. Paul envisions mutual rejoicing on the day of Christ

Today's Scripture

Philippians 2:12-18

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. ¹⁴Do everything without complaining or arguing, ¹⁵so that you may become blameless and pure,

children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe ¹⁶as you hold out the word of life--in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing. ¹⁷But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. ¹⁸So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

Romans 8:28-30: And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

Matthew 5:48: Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Ephesians 4:11-16: It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹²to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

John 15:1-5: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. ⁵"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

Ephesians 5:18: Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

Galatians 5:16-26: So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. ¹⁷For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. ¹⁹The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. ²⁵Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-7: It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; ⁴that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, ⁵not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; ⁶and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you. ⁷For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- #1. What does the word sanctification mean?
- #2. Discuss the believer's role in sanctification.
- #3. Discuss God's role in sanctification?
- #4. Why is God's role dominant in sanctification?
- #5. Some people will be more sanctified than others. Why is this the case?

#6. In what way is sanctification a corporate matter? (Eph 4:11-16)

#7. What are some of the practices that a body of believers must engage in to facilitate their corporate sanctification?

#8. Why do we work out our salvation with fear and trembling?

#9. Read John 15:1-5 and contrast the believer's role with God's role in sanctification.

#10. Read Galatians 5:16-26 and discuss the internal battle the believer lives with`.

#11. In what way(s) are the works of the flesh contrary to the fruit of the Spirit? (Galatians 5:16-26)

#12. Why is the filling of the Holy Spirit crucial to the believer's sanctification? (Eph 5:18)

#13. How is one filled with the Spirit? (Eph 5:18)

#14. What is your takeaway from this teaching?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday Bible Study at 6:30: a discussion of the previous sermon.

Wednesday prayer and study at 6:30. (access both by clicking the zoom link)

Fellowship Gathering at Garbolina Park: Saturday, October 10th, at 9am. This is a time to visit with the church family and keep our in person connections.

Thank you for financially supporting the ministry of Hillcrest Church. You can give online or mail your check to the church.

- Give to the general fund (our operating expenses)
- Give to the elder's fund (to assist those in financial need)

- Give to the Great Commission fund (for the missionaries of the CMA)

If you need spiritual counseling during these crazy times don't hesitate to contact any of the elders:

Bruce@hillcrestroseville.com

Keith@hillcrestroseville.com

Aaron@hillcrestroseville.com

Pastor Bruce and Carol have tested positive for the covid-19 virus. Please keep them in your prayers.