**THE NEW NORMAL #12**

**“Reforms”**

One of the buzz words in our culture these days is “reforms.” We hear it all the time: police reform, immigration reform, educational reform, political reform, economic reform, and so on. People are protesting, which is another buzz word, to see reforms in these areas take place. We are living in a season where there are many changes on the horizon. Reform is a good thing! When the new normal emerges, there will be many things that have reformed or are in the process of reforming. In fact, reform is a word that has special significance for Christians because God is always reforming us. The Biblical term for this is sanctification. Today’s teaching will discuss the changing climate in American life and the reforms God brings about in his people.

**#1. THE STORY OF MARTIN LUTHER – THE REFORMER**

1. He was an Augustinian monk & professor of theology
2. He objected to practices in the Roman Catholic Church
3. The 95 theses in 1517 at the church in Whittenberg
4. He was the catalyst in the protestant reformation
5. He was a critical thinker – he knew what he believed

**#2. WHAT IS SANCTIFICATION?**

1. The Greek word for sanctification - *hagiasmos*
2. Phase one – positional sanctification, 1 Cor 1:2, 30, 6:9-11
3. Phase two – progressive sanctification, Phil 2:12-16, 1 Thess 4:3
4. Phase three – perfected sanctification, Rom 8:29-30

**#3. OUR PART IN SANCTIFICATION, Phil 2:12**

1. Keep obeying in Paul’s absence
2. Continue to work out your salvation (sanctification)
3. In fear & trembling
4. Paul is speaking to the entire church
5. Each person must do his part
6. Being Spirit filled is essential, Eph 5:18, Gal 5:16f

**#4. GOD’S PART IN SANCTIFICATION, Phil 2:13**

1. God is at work in you
2. God works to will
3. God works to act
4. God works to fulfill his good purpose

**#5. THE EVIDENCE OF SANCTIFICATION, Phil 2:14-16**

1. Stop grumbling & arguing, v. 14
2. Be blameless & pure, v. 15
3. Children of God without fault, v. 15
4. In a warped & crooked generation, v. 15
5. Shine like stars among the world, v. 15
6. Hold out the word of life, v. 16
7. The fruit of the Spirit, Gal 5:22-23

**#6. CONCLUSIONS ABOUT SANCTIFICATION**

1. It is a cooperative effort between God & man
2. God’s part is dominant ours is secondary
3. Only God can bring about reform in us
4. Some people will be more sanctified than others

**TODAY’S SCRIPTURE**

**Philippians 2:12-16:**  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 16 as 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.

**1 Corinthians 1:2:** To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ-- their Lord and ours:

**1 Corinthians 6:9-11:** Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders 10nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

**1 Thessalonians 4:1-7:**  Finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. 2For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. 3It 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.

**Romans 8:29-30:** For 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.

**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.

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

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

#1. Many people don’t know the beliefs of the movements they support. Why is it important to be a critical thinker and know what you are protesting?

#2. What strikes you about Martin Luther?

#3. Discuss the believer’s role in sanctification.

#4. Discuss God’s role in sanctification?

#5. Why is God’s role dominant in Sanctification?

#6. Some people will be more sanctified than others. Why is this the case?

#7. In what way is sanctification a corporate matter?

#8. What are some of the practices that believers must engage in to facilitate their sanctification?

#9. Why is the filling of the Holy Spirit crucial to the believer’s sanctification? Eph 5:18

#10. What is the evidence of a sanctified life?

#11. In what way(s) are the works of the flesh contrary to the fruit of the Spirit?

#12. What is your takeaway from this teaching?

Hillcrest Church

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