

CALL to PRAYER - Pray that we would be separated from the world...a holy people

## **Ephesians 5:3-7 - Sanctification or Separation**

Intro - God's great salvation of a sinner is a total work. It affects the whole person, and it is in effect for the whole of time. In theology we dissect salvation into different categories because the Scripture reveals distinct parts to God's one salvation. The one jewel of salvation has many beautiful facets to behold. It begins before time in eternity past with **ELECTION** where God the Father chooses to save sinners. Then at just the right time in history God sent His Son to earn a **REDEMPTION** and pay for our salvation. Then salvation intersects us in time when the Holy Spirit brings **REGENERATION** and makes us spiritually alive in the new birth. Next comes **JUSTIFICATION** when the regenerated sinner hears the gospel and uses the gift of faith to trust in Christ for the forgiveness of sins and at that moment he is declared to be as righteous as Jesus Christ. Then begins **SANCTIFICATION** where the Holy Spirit begins the process of separating the sinner from his sin and setting him apart a holy... making him more like Christ. This process goes on for the rest of his time on earth. **GLORIFICATION** happens after the resurrection when we will be completely saved body, soul & spirit and it will work throughout eternal time for eternity and keeping us from sin. All that is salvation. The redeemed are saved, are being saved and yearn for the day to be completely saved from sin. The text today deals with part of salvation called *sanctification*. The point I want to make today is that sanctification is not an option for the Christian. There is no salvation without sanctification. It is part of the package. Sanctification is an essential part of the process that can't be cut out or omitted. It is automatic, though it is not instant... it is a gradual thing, but it is also a sure thing. There is either sanctification of the sinner or there will be eternal separation of the sinner.

### **SANCTIFICATION**

- Definition of Sanctification BFM 2000 - IV. Salvation (C) Sanctification (on flap of bulletin)
  - WSC #35 Q. What is Sanctification? A. *Sanctification is the act of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man, after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.*
  - Sanctification is God's work on the total person - 1 Thess. 5:23
  - Sanctification is God's work motivating us to work - Philippians 2:12-13
  - Sanctification works through God's Word - John 17:17
  - Sanctification is a gradual work by the Spirit - 2 Cor. 3:18
- Eph. 4-6 is practical application for the Christian...Sanctification...living a Christian life
  - Walking worthy of our calling - 4:1, 17; 5:1-2
  - 5:3-7 addresses some commandments not mentioned at end of chapter 4
  - God writes His law on the believers heart <sup>Heb. 8:10</sup> and it is kept out of love <sup>1John 5:3</sup>
    - Our text focuses on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> commandments
- Eph. 5:3 - This is basic Christian character that must be worked out in a believer's life.
  - Immorality = *pornei* (pornography) all sexual sins in thought, word or deed
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Commandment (Ex. 20:14) sexual morality is only found in holy matrimony
  - Anything outside of a God ordained marriage is immoral...*pornei* Heb. 13:4
  - Picture porn/story porn <sup>Matt. 5:28</sup>, incest, fornication, adultery, rape, pedophilia, homosexuality, gender rejection (trans), LGBTQIA2s+, bestiality...
    - Biblical marriage is the standard for sexual morality
  - Any kind of sexual immorality is not even to be named among Christians

- Eph. 5:3-4
  - Sexual sins are not a laughing matter. We are not to joke about it
  - To laugh at sin is to embrace sin. (2 friends in "ministry" who joked about homosexuality)
  - A believes talk should be full of grace and thanksgiving...not coarse jesting
- Eph. 5:3                      greed
  - This is listed right next to immorality                      10<sup>th</sup> Commandment
  - Greed = "*insatiable desire for more*" (Jan. Bible Study)                      more financially or sexually
  - Covetousness = idolatry    Eph. 5:5                      (breaking the 10<sup>th</sup> leads you to break the 1<sup>st</sup>)
    - Phil 3:18-19
- This is all just basic Christian character....basic doctrine....sanctification
  - Sanctification is not an option for the Christian                      Matt. 28:19-20
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### SEPARATION

- Eph. 3:5-6
  - There is a great deception in church-ianity...
    - That you can have salvation without sanctification
  - Book "*Stop Asking Jesus Into Your Heart*"    *man who was "saved" young but living immoral life...he was not concerned because "once saved always saved...right?"*
    - This is a common deception                      Jer. 7:8-11
  - Salvation is not just some one-time decision...God does not just zap 'em and leave 'em....NO! salvation stays with them and changes them...Salvation is a lifetime transformation that will remain active for the rest of their life and throughout all of eternal life.
- The act of faith will inevitably lead to a life of faith
  - Jesus saves a sinner FROM his sins - Matt. 1:21
    - God's salvation does not leave you in your sin it saves you from your sin
  - This happens over time an in degree, but it does happen
  - Dow graph - trends upward over time but with many little dips on the way up
    - The Christian's life will look like that graph
    - Life brings growth
  - Life will register with up & down movement.                      Flat-line = no life
    - No such thing as a "*flatline christian*" with no movement or improvement
- Let me be blunt....If you are not being saved from your sin, then you are not in.
  - Eph. 5:5-6
  - 1 Cor. 6:9-11                      Gal. 5:19-21                      Rev. 21:8
  - Matt. 7:21
  - Sanctification is not an option for the Christian - Heb. 12:14
    - Sanctification or separation.
    - Separation from sin or it will be a separation from Him.
- God's salvation is a total work active before time, throughout time and all the time.
  - The saved sinner benefits from Election, Redemption, Regeneration, Justification, Sanctification and looks forward to Glorification.
    - If you are saved then you are in the facet of sanctification - Phil 2:12-13
    - If you think you are saved but aren't being sanctified...don't be deceived, be saved