

**ROOTED**  
*What About Sanctification*  
November 13, 2022

**INTRO.:** It is great to be together again this morning. Amen! For those of you who may be new, we have been going through the series, *Rooted: Core Doctrines of the Faith*. We have covered a lot of ground in the last eight weeks. We've talked about the Bible (inerrant, infallible, inspired Word of God), God the Father, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, sin, redemption, and justification. As we have gone through these doctrines, I have reminded us that this isn't just a study to gain information, but it is meant for transformation.

In thinking about this morning's doctrine, I have here a jar. Does anybody know what's in this jar? This is a jar of real, genuine, maple syrup. I also have this container of syrup here. One you can get much cheaper than the other but, as they say, you get what you pay for. Why is genuine maple syrup more expensive? It's because of the process. One of the men in our fellowship makes maple syrup and I have had the privilege of watching some of this process. It actually begins long before the time when the sap from the maple tree begins running. In the summer months you pick out the trees you want to tap based on the size (must be at least 12 inches in diameter), tree leaf and bark. You must make sure you have all your supplies: spiles to put into the tree, buckets or tubing, something to transport the sap, suitable storage containers for the sap, filtration equipment to ensure only sap gets into the pan, and enough wood to keep the fires hot enough to evaporate the sap down to the syrup. You want to set up your line so that you have a straight run (not zig-zag), the right decline of 3-7% with no dips so there isn't an air pocket that develops. You must make sure you tap the trees at the right time, around the second week of February, when the temperatures are freezing at night and around 40 degrees in the daytime. You must make sure you don't put the spile in too deep or too shallow. You need to tap the trees on the south side of the tree so they can get the necessary sun. It takes about 40 gallons of sap to make a gallon of syrup. After you collect the sap, you put it in cast iron kettles and begin the process of boiling it. You need someone to man the fires, so they remain hot enough. While boiling the sap you skim off anything that happens to fall into it, as well as the foam that forms on the edge of the kettles. As the sap evaporates someone puts more sap into the kettle, with the process taking 6-8 hours. When it is boiled down you filter it and put it into the syrup containers and seal them. It is quite a project but well worth the effort when you taste it. After having real maple syrup, it is difficult to go back to the thick, paste-like, syrup. Why do I share all of this? The doctrine we are going to look at this morning is an ongoing process in the life of a believer, and we live in a culture that wants everything quick: no waiting. This is the doctrine called *sanctification*. It's a big word but one which we need to know and understand. So, we will be looking at:

**WHAT** is sanctification

**HOW** does it happen

**REMEMBER** it's a process

**WHAT**

There are two types of sanctification in the Bible:

1) Positional: that which God does to us at the moment of salvation. We are set apart as His precious possession.

**Hebrews 10:10 (NKJV) — 10** By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

*"we have been sanctified:"* perfect, passive, participle (point of time in the past and continuing on forever; passive: God does the work)

2) Practical sanctification: the changing of our lives to become more like Jesus as an ongoing process. This is what we will be concentrating on during the message this morning.

"The process by which true righteousness is formed in us." (Paul David Tripp)

"The process of God's grace by which the believer is separated from sin and becomes dedicated to God's righteousness." (Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

The word is used 106 times in the Old Testament and 31 times in the New Testament. The word literally means, "to set apart." There are three words used in the New Testament that come from a similar root word. Let's take a few moments to look at each one.

*“sanctify:”* can refer to position or relationship. When someone comes to faith in Christ they are positionally “set apart” by God and are now under new ownership, belonging to God. We spoke of this when teaching about redemption, having been bought back by God with the payment being the shed blood of Christ for our sins.

*Sanctify* refers to our ongoing relationship with God through Christ, whereby we become more and more like Jesus. When does this process end? It concludes when we are in glory and no longer struggling with our sin nature.

*“holy”* or *“holiness:”* these words along with sanctify and sanctification are sometimes used interchangeably. If you take the NIV, NASB, NKJV, you will find that they translate it sometimes sanctify and sometimes holy.

*“saint:”* a saint is any person who has come to faith in Jesus and is a form of the word used for sanctify and holy. It is a “set apart” one. This is not something you grow into, for you are just as much a *saint* the moment you believe as when you have been a Christian for 50 years. If you know Jesus as your Savior, I could address you as saint. Paul in his opening greetings in several of his epistles calls those he is addressing “saints.”

**Ephesians 1:1 (NKJV)** — 1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus:

**Philippians 1:1 (NKJV)** — 1 Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

**Colossians 1:1–2 (NKJV)** — 1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, 2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colosse: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

These were actual, living people! Believers are given the title of *saints* more than any other description except one. They are called *brethren* 184 times and *saints* 62 times.

What is God’s goal for every follower of Jesus?

**Romans 8:28–29 (NKJV)** — 28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

## HOW

**1 Thessalonians 4:3** It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality;

Since it is God’s will that we be sanctified, it is important that we know how it is to occur.

First, a person needs to come to faith in Christ. We must admit our sin, turn from it and seek God’s forgiveness available only through the death and resurrection of Christ. How does sanctification happen in the life of the believer?

The primary focus of sanctification is the ongoing, lifelong rescue of us from us. The doctrine of sanctification requires that you admit that you are deeply in need of help. We are not good enough, we are not clean enough, we are not Christlike enough, and we do not have enough to solve these problems on our own. No matter how much you’ve grown in grace, you still need to grow in grace. Paul David Tripp

How do I know that I can’t do this on my own?

**Romans 7:15–20** I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. 16 And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. 17 As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. 18 I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. 19 For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

Can you relate to these verses?

Sanctification involves:

1) The trinity:

**Father:**

**1 Thessalonians 5:23** May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Jesus:*

**By the blood of Christ: Hebrews 13:12 (NKJV)** — **12** Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate.

*Holy Spirit:*

**Romans 15:16** to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles with the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

**2 Thessalonians 2:13** But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.

**Galatians 5:22–23** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

*“fruit:”* singular. We don’t get to pick and choose which character traits we want to possess.

*“is:”* present tense, these are to be ongoing traits in our lives, the fruit of the Holy Spirit’s work in the life of the believer.

2) The Word of God:

**Ephesians 5:25–26** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her **26** to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,

**John 17:17** Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

There can be NO sanctification apart from the Word of God!! The Holy Spirit is the One who teaches us through the Word of God. The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin through the Word of God. It’s why we need to read, study, meditate, and memorize Scripture.

3) The church

**Hebrews 10:23–25** Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. **24** And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. **25** Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

\*We all need the public teaching and preaching of the word of God

\*We need to worship together

\*We need to share in the “one another’s” of Scripture (love, forgive, serve, pray for, encourage, hold accountable).

\*We need to realize our walk with God is a community project. Can’t do life alone! Rejoice together and weep together.

\*We need to speak the truth in love and have the truth spoken to us

\*We need brothers or sisters to mentor us and we need to mentor

\*We need people who rub us the wrong way

\*We need to make a difference in the community in which we live

\*We need to reach the world for Christ together

\*We need to meet the needs and bear the burdens of those in the fellowship. What do people do without the church???

\*We need to celebrate together with communion and baptism

Don’t let the imperfection of the church derail you from being part of the church!! The church is a group of Jesus followers who realize they don’t have it all together.

What is sanctification? A setting apart of the believer by God.

Positionally: at the moment of salvation, you become His

Practically: ongoing change, becoming more like Jesus (setting apart from sin, setting apart to the Savior)

How does sanctification occur? The work of God with all of the Trinity involved

Instruments: the Word of God and the Church of God

**REMEMBER**

\*Sanctification is a process, and we will not always get it right. We will fail! When we do, we need to get back up and walk again with God. The church will not always get it right because it is also made up of sinners. God wants more than a few minor, outward changes. He wants to give our lives an overhaul. Not like the following story.

### **Man Uses Foam to Transform Beat-up Mercedes Benz**

Who said that you can't turn an old, beat-up car into something beautiful? In 2014 a Lithuanian man was tired of his old, beat-up Mercedes-Benz CLK and wanted to transform it into something new and exciting. So he refurbished his old car with expandable foam—yes, foam. He started by covering the exterior, and once the foam hardened, he meticulously carved away until the lumpy body resembled a sleek sports car. He did the same to the interior, covering the dashboard with a foamy, bubbly mess. After hours of meticulous sculpting, the addition of shiny rims, and paint job, the rusty-grey junker was transformed into a ruby-red muscle car. If you didn't know the car's back story, you'd probably assume it was the prototype for a new line.

Because of sin, we all are like a beat-up junk car. If we want to be truly beautiful and perform like we were intended, we need a drastic makeover. God is slowly working on each of us to transform our entire being (although at this point we might look like a junker covered with messy foam), and one day he will bring his work to completion (Phil 1:6).

*Source: Just Something, "This man covered his junk car with expanding foam," last accessed on 5-14-14*

As great as the car looked after his project, underneath it was still an old, junky car, with some nice foam covering the imperfections. Sanctification is the process of God where He makes us new, transformed people, to His glory, working from the inside out.

**2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

**Philippians 1:6** being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

\*Sanctification is at times a difficult process and often involves trials and challenges in our lives

**Romans 5:3–5** Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

\*It will be worth it all when we see Jesus!

### **SO WHAT???**

It is God's will that we be sanctified. So, how am I doing?

Have I come to faith?

How am I doing with my time in the Bible and prayer?

Have I truly plugged into the church?

Just like making maple syrup, there is no shortcut to the process of sanctification