



Getting the Gospel: Sanctification

John 15:5; Romans 6:22; Philippians 2:12-13

PREPARE

Self-preparation: enter your study guide preparation time by reading Galatians 5:22-23 twice (slowly). Now quiet your mind and pray for God to reveal the particular fruit of the Spirit that He wants to help you embrace this week. Read the passage one more time and circle *that* fruit.

Group preparation: as a group, enter this time of community by reading aloud different versions of the text from John 3:16-17. After reading the passage, open this time together in prayer by asking God to “make the reality of these words come alive in our lives and reveal the power of each and every word to us,” as we study His word together.

OPEN

Describe a time you had to sacrifice something for someone you cared for.

Now think about doing the same thing for someone who is mean spirited and difficult. Does this challenge you and why?

DISCUSS

Last week we opened the sermon series with a discussion about how to “get right with God,” focusing on **Justification**. The text from John 3:16-17 helps us understand that we must:

- 1) **Admit** we need God’s forgiveness.
- 2) **Believe** that Christ’s crucifixion was sufficient to pay our debt.
- 3) **Commit** ourselves to following Christ in a way that He can renew and redeem our lives.

This week, we turn our attention to **Sanctification**.

In the sermon this week we heard the story of George Wright, who committed a terrible crime, escaped from jail, and while on the run, transformed himself into a completely new man. He went from criminal to Christ-like.

Can you think of anyone who has done a bit of a "180" in their life? Discuss what happened to them and why.

Think of some examples in your own life, small or big, where you have done a 180. How would you describe the before and after, and what motivated that change?

As Jesus was preparing to pay for our sins on the cross, he left his Disciples with some final words that included the passages below:

Read John 15: 1-4.

- What do you learn in verses 1 and 2?
- What is the big idea in verse 3?
- How does verse 4 speak into your life right now?

Read John 15: 5-8.

- Compare and contrast verses 5 and 6.
- In verse 7, what does it mean to you, to "Remain in me" and "My words remain in you"?
- What challenges you in these verses?

Read Romans 6:22 and Philippians 2: 12-13.

- What do these passages teach us about sanctification?

In your own words, what is Justification?

And what is Sanctification?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Come before the Lord of the Universe with praise and gratitude, asking Him to prune and nurture you all in the coming weeks.

NEXT STEPS

Spend some quiet time with God. Start by bringing Him praise and gratitude for as long as thoughts of thankfulness and adoration flood over you. Then sit in silence, imagining a gardener as he prunes a vine. Begin to pray again, considering yourself as one of the "branches" on His "vine". Ask the great "gardener" to show you where He would prune and where He would nurture you.

- Did He reveal any fruits of the spirit He wants to nurture in you?
- Did He show you any areas of your life that He wants to prune?
- Write these down in a journal.
- Sometime this week, share with someone in your group or a spiritual friend, what God reveals to you. Ask for them to pray for your spiritual journey and that your desire for sanctification will rise.

GETTING THE GOSPEL:

Get right with God (*Justification*)

Overcome Your Character Flaws (*Sanctification*)

Set Your Course By Reliable Truth (*Revelation: Bible and Holy Spirit*)

Participate in Renewing This World (*Redemption and Reconciliation*)

Enjoy Life Beyond Death (*Resurrection*)

Love with the Greatest Love of All (*Glorification*)