

## “ENTIRE SANCTIFICATION” (I Thessalonians 4: 1-12)

### TURN TO I THESSALONIANS 4

This morning, we are going to move to our tenth Article of Faith, which is:

#### X. Christian Holiness and Entire Sanctification

*We believe that sanctification is the work of God which transforms believers into the likeness of Christ. It is wrought by God’s grace through the Holy Spirit in initial sanctification, or regeneration (simultaneous with justification), entire sanctification, and the continued perfecting work of the Holy Spirit culminating in glorification. In glorification, we are fully conformed to the image of the Son.*

*We believe that entire sanctification is that act of God, subsequent to regeneration, by which believers are made free from original sin, or depravity, and brought into a state of entire devotement to God, and the holy obedience of love made perfect.*

*It is wrought by the baptism with or infilling of the Holy Spirit, and comprehends in one experience the cleansing of the heart from sin and the abiding, indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, empowering the believer for life and service. Entire sanctification is provided by the blood of Jesus, is wrought instantaneously by grace through faith, preceded by entire consecration; and to this work and state of grace the Holy Spirit bears witness.*

*This experience is also known by various terms representing its different phases, such as “Christian perfection,” “perfect love,”*

*“heart purity,” “the baptism with or infilling of the Holy Spirit,” “the fullness of the blessing,” and “Christian holiness.”*

*10.1. We believe that there is a marked distinction between a pure heart and a mature character. The former is obtained in an instant, the result of entire sanctification; the latter is the result of growth in grace.*

*We believe that the grace of entire sanctification includes the divine impulse to grow in grace as a Christlike disciple. However, this impulse must be consciously nurtured, and careful attention given to the requisites and processes of spiritual development and improvement in Christlikeness of character and personality.*

*Without such purposeful endeavor, one’s witness may be impaired and the grace itself frustrated and ultimately lost.*

*Participating in the means of grace, especially the fellowship, disciplines, and sacraments of the Church, believers grow in grace and in wholehearted love to God and neighbor.*

The meat of the Holiness message is Sanctification. We believe in the doctrine of Entire Sanctification.

Sanctification is an English word used to express a concept that occurs throughout the Bible.

The Hebrew Kadosh occurs in different forms 830 times in the Old Testament. As a noun or adjective it is most frequently translated “holy” or “holiness”, while its verb forms are usually translated “sanctify”.

(A Holy God).

The first thing that we have to keep in mind and remember is that we serve a holy God. And as we have been talking about over the last several weeks, a Holy God cannot be in the presence of sin.

Since the beginning of time and man's first sin, starting with Adam, that sin (and all sin since) has separated us from God, but because of God's great love for us he made a way for reconciliation.

In our depraved sinful state we do not even have the capacity to seek a Holy God and it is only by his prevenient grace and the Holy Spirit that we even have the capacity to have the yearning to seek him.

When we do seek, we can repent, because he has paid the price for our sin. Jesus as the atoning sacrifice has covered over our sins.

Jesus has bridged the gap that sin created between us and a holy God.

For all those who repent and call upon the name of Jesus, they are justified by the blood, reborn by the spirit, and adopted into the family of God.

The concept of sanctification has its roots in the nature of God who is entirely separate from His people. Thus people or objects which are given over to God's service must be used for Him alone..... People that are devoted to God are referred to as

“SANCTIFIED”

## **I Thessalonians 4: verses 1-12**

### ***Living to Please God***

*4 As for other matters, brothers and sisters, 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. <sup>2</sup> For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.*

*<sup>3</sup> It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; <sup>4</sup> that each of you should learn to control*

*your own body<sup>[a]</sup> in a way that is holy and honorable, <sup>5</sup> not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; <sup>6</sup> and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister.<sup>[b]</sup> The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. <sup>7</sup> For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. <sup>8</sup> Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.*

*<sup>9</sup> Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. <sup>10</sup> And in fact, you do love all of God's family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more, <sup>11</sup> and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, <sup>12</sup> so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.*

Here Paul was dealing with people that had just come out of Heathendom.

To them this was a very new & different lifestyle.....(I know the feeling, this Christianity thing was brand new for me, I had no idea of how I was suppose to live)

Paul was teaching them not to please themselves, but to PLEASE GOD!!!!

As long as you Please God, you'll never go wrong!

(It's hard to get folks to see faults in their own lives....I believe a lot of times the reason folks run each other down, is because it makes them

feel important. Too many can't go on living their own lives, they have to just be better than the next one...)

As long as you Please God, you'll never go wrong!

Also, this commandment of this new way of life wasn't from the Apostle Paul, but from the Lord Jesus Christ Himself!

This new walk was marked by "Purity" & by "Brotherly Love".

God calls ALL BELIEVERS to Holiness...

### **Ephesians 1:4**

*"4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love"*

Even before the Creation of this world, God chose that all those that believe in Him should be Holy...(This is not just some Nazarene thing, it's a Jesus thing)

HOLY: refers to the inner Spiritual quality without blame to the outer life.... (Jesus tells us that if we will clean the inside of the cup that the outside will take care of itself)

Rev. Uncle Buddy Robinson said that you can't clean up the outside until the inside is clean!!!

### **Matthew 3:11**

*"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."*

Jesus would cleanse His followers from sin and then give them the power over sin!

Jesus came that we might be saved from sin.....then that we might live the Holy lifestyle!

We receive this power thru the Infilling of the Holy Spirit .

The Disciples genuinely believed in Christ before Pentecost, yet they needed the infilling of the Holy Spirit before they could experience all that God had for them...

...Thus God's plan to EQUIP His people for Holy Living is not complete until we are sanctified completely by seeking and experiencing a personal filling with the Holy Spirit.

You see, God begins His work of Sanctification when we are converted.

The first thing to being Spirit-Filled is to be converted! (We got to get people saved)

There are too many religious folks out there today, thinking they are saved when they haven't changed!!

### **Romans 8:9**

*“You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.”*

Wesley Bible Commentary: *“to live according to the desires of the flesh results in spiritual death. While all Christians have the Spirit, those filled with the Spirit have been released from the flesh. Although it is not Gods plan, some Christians are still carnal and Struggle with the presence of fleshly desires.”*

Paul also says in Romans that those that are in the flesh cannot please God!!!

The Transformation that takes place when we are saved is called “Initial Sanctification” This second work of Grace thru Faith is called Entire Sanctification.

This cleanses the TWO-FOLD nature of sin:

1. *The sin that I committed and*
2. *The nature that causes me to want to sin.....*

Turn to **Colossians 3**: verses 5-17

*<sup>5</sup> Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup> Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>7</sup> You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. <sup>8</sup> But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. <sup>11</sup> Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.*

*<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.*

*<sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the*

*message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

Paul urges those at Colosse to a further radical surrender to God. Paul is showing here in a practical way what it means to be dead to the world and risen with Christ! To put off the old man and to put on the new man!!!

Paul lists the attitudes and actions of the Old Life that must be PUT OFF.....Then he also list the deeds & attitudes of the new life that must be PUT ON!!!

Sanctification perfects the believer in Love and EMPOWERS him for effective service!

### **Matthew 5:43-48**

#### ***Love for Enemies***

*<sup>43</sup> “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor<sup>[a]</sup> and hate your enemy.’ <sup>44</sup> But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. <sup>46</sup> If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? <sup>47</sup> And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even*



*pagans do that? <sup>48</sup> Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

What does it mean to be perfect as your heavenly father is perfect, it means to be perfect in love.

When Jesus was asked what was the greatest commandment he responded...

*“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest command. And the second is like it: ‘you shall love your neighbor as your yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and prophets.”*

God needs folks to get out of the mire of self-pity and bad attitudes and GET IT TOGETHER for effective service for Him..... We have that Perfect Love in our hearts.....

### **I Corinthians 13:** verses 4-8

*<sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

*<sup>8</sup> Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.*

WE need to be Saved....To have a Personal Relationship with Jesus Christ....This will cause us to be a different person...a new creature....

We need to be Sanctified. To be filled with the Holy Spirit....to be Cleansed....to totally surrender our EVERYTHING to the Service of the Lord!!

Evidence of being Filled with the Spirit is to “Bear the Fruits of the Spirit.” (Love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.)

It’s too easy to just say “I’m Sanctified”, when if you are truly Spirit-Filled, you will bear the Fruit of the Spirit.

ALTAR:

Today, where are you with the Lord? Do you have a ‘Sweet Spirit’ or a ‘Mean Spirit?’ Are you Saved? If so, have you been Sanctified? Do you need a fresh touch from the Lord?

\* \* \* **Romans 12:** verses 1-2 \* \* \*

*12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*