

LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HOLINESS

Romans 6:19-22

Introduction:

- Sanctification or holiness (literally means “set a _____”)
 1. In **no** sense is it a second work of g_____ (some believe that perfection can be attained in this lifetime).
 2. In **one** sense it is the g_____ of life in Christ
 - a. When we received Christ our status immediately changed from sinner to s_____ (literally, “set apart”) – Rom 1:7; I Cor 1:2; 3:1-3
 - b. Jesus is called our sanctification (holiness) in I Cor 1:30; thus our r_____ to Jesus sets us apart from the unbelieving world.
 - c. This saving act gave us **liberty** from sin’s p_____
 3. In **another** sense it requires e_____ on the part of the believer. This is the aspect that we will explore today.
- Your struggle with sin
 1. It is not wrong to be tempted with sinful desires - Jesus was tempted in e_____ way but did not sin (Heb 4:15)
 2. It is wrong to g_____ in to sinful desires
 - a. Are you frustrated in your struggle?
 - b. Is there a “secret” to conquering sin?

Christians are Commanded to Pursue Holiness (19,20)

- Holiness has to do with your relationship with Christ not to r_____ (v. 14)
 1. Paul has been using the illustration of s_____ so they can better understand how to battle their sinful weaknesses (v. 19)
 - a. We must not p_____ the illustration beyond what Paul does, otherwise we will fall into error.
 - b. The illustration serves to show that when we were unbelievers we were under sin’s a_____ control (v. 20 – we were free from righteousness, we could never glorify God – Rom 3:23)
 - c. The illustration serves to show that when God saved us, He gave us a new m_____ - righteousness (or a right relationship to Him – v. 18)
 - d. The illustration serves to show that the same diligence we as unbelievers applied in pursuing sin should be as believers applied in pursuing righteousness – v. 19)
 - e. The illustration DOES not serve to show that believers are under the control of righteousness as unbelievers are under the control of sin – v. 19 commands us to present ourselves as slaves of righteousness
 2. Therefore pursuing holiness is a matter of our w_____

Christians are Characterized as Progressing in Holiness (21,22)

- What benefit or fruit does sin produce? - d_____ (v. 21)
- What do believers presently have according to verse 22?
 1. Eternal l_____ - which is a personal relationship with the Lord (Jn 17:3)
 2. F_____ for sanctification or holiness (i.e. living out your relationship to the Lord – see Jn 15:4,5,8,16)
- True believers will have a general progression toward being

more Christ-like because of God's work inside us (Rom 8:29)

1. Phil 2:12,13 – God works in us the willingness and the ability to do His good pleasure (Eph 2:10 – saved to do good w_____)
 2. I Jn 1:8 – The progress toward Christ-likeness never ceases in this lifetime (p_____ is unattainable – Phil 3:12-14)
 3. When Christ appears, then we will be l_____ Him (I Jn 3:2)
- Your degree of progress is dependent on your cooperation with God's work in your life.

Conclusion:

A Suggestion For Strangling Sin And Pursuing Holiness

●**Psalm 139:23** – *Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way.*

1. God has the solution to your struggle – I Jn 3:8 (The Son of God appeared to “unravel” the works of the devil)
2. If you ask God to show you your sins, He will – I Jn 5:14,15
3. You must confess each known sin – I Jn 1:9

The word confess in the Bible means to “speak the same.” So confessing sin is speaking the same thing about our sin as God does. So we must agree with God concerning sin. And what does God say about your sins?

- a. Rev 3:20 – sin breaks fellowship with Christ
Lord, I agree with You that my sin of _____ is leading me away from You.
- b. Rom 6:7,14; Eph 6:11 – sin has no power over you because Jesus has purchased your freedom
Lord, I agree with You that this sin of _____ holds no power over me because Jesus' work on the cross canceled that power.
- c. Prov 6:16; Ps 97:10; Jn 10:10 – the Lord hates sin, which will only steal, kill, and destroy
Lord, I hate this sin of _____, which is trying to steal, kill, or destroy something in my life. I repent and turn from this sin.
- d. Eph 1:7; Jer 31:34 – the Lord immediately forgives all sin
Lord, I accept your forgiveness for my sin of _____ because of Jesus' blood sacrifice.

●Feed your spirit (new nature) and starve your flesh (old sinful nature)

1. Through prayer – *Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation's trap; the **spirit** is willing, but the **flesh** is weak* (Matt 26:41).
2. Through God's word – *Like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may **grow** in respect to salvation* (I Pet 2:2).
3. Through Christian fellowship – *Flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace **with those** who call on the Lord from a **pure heart*** (2 Tim 2:22)