

**Sanctification: “Slaves of Righteousness”  
(Romans 6:15-23)**

# A Chemistry Professor and an Essay Assignment



# Hebrew Pedagogy (Teaching Techniques): Repetition → Insights

- <sup>15</sup> When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” <sup>16</sup> He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” <sup>17</sup> He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. (John 21:15-17)

# Two Types of “Righteousness”

- **Instantaneous Righteousness for Salvation:** God by His grace counts as “righteousness” our faith in Jesus who died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins, thus wiping away our sins and restoring our relationship with God (“Justification”).
- **Ongoing Righteousness in Virtuous Living:** Doing the right thing; being virtuous/praiseworthy; striving to “fear God and keep His commandments (Ecclesiastes 12:13). (“Sanctification”)

# Definition of “Sanctification”

- **Definition:** “From the Hebrew and Greek, ‘to be set apart’ from the common use, ‘to be made holy.’ The nature of sanctification is twofold in that Christians have been made holy through Christ and are called to continue to grow into and strive for holiness by cooperating with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.”

*--Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms*

--To grow increasingly into the likeness of Christ . . . To become more like Christ

# “Sanctification” = Discipleship

- <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and **make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:19-20).
- Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, **that you do so more and more.** (1 Thessalonians 4:1).

# Sanctification: Romans 6:15-16

<sup>15</sup> What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace?  
By no means!

<sup>16</sup> Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?

15. "Antinomianism": no need to follow Old Testament Law because of Grace

16. Obedience indicates free will

16. Bob Dylan: "Gotta Serve Somebody" (The devil or the Lord)

16. Humans are not good at governing themselves

# Sanctification: Romans 6:17-19

<sup>17</sup> But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed,

<sup>18</sup> and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

<sup>19</sup> I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification [more holiness].

17. “Prevenient Grace” and “General Revelation”

17. “Standard of teaching”: Christian doctrines/The Good News of Jesus Christ

18. Saving Grace

18. The Law of Liberty in Christ: freedom to serve the Lord

19. “Natural limitations” (“Sarx”): natural human trait of resisting God’s authority



# Sanctification: Romans 6:20-21

<sup>20</sup> For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.  
<sup>21</sup> But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death.

20. “Mono-mastering”: Only possible to serve one master at a time

21. The fruit of sinfulness: emptiness, restlessness, hedonism, death

# Sanctification: Romans 6:22-23

<sup>22</sup> But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.

<sup>23</sup> **For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

22. The fruits of righteousness/Fruits of the Spirit: *Love, joy, hope, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control* (Galations 5:22-23).

23. Sin pays you with what you deserve: death

23. God gifts you with what you do not deserve: eternal life by grace through faith in the faithfulness of Jesus who died for our sins on the cross

# Set Free from Sin

## Romans 6:22

<sup>22</sup> But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God (Romans 6:22)

<sup>38</sup> Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, <sup>39</sup> and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses. (Acts 13:38-39)

# Connecting the Dots

- “Paul calls them two slaveries. By birth we are in Adam, the slaves of sin; by grace and faith we are in Christ, the slaves of God. Bondage to sin yields no return except shame and ongoing moral deterioration, culminating in the death we deserve. Bondage to God, however, yields the precious fruit of progressive holiness, culminating in the free gift of life.”

--John Stott, *The Message of Romans*, p. 186

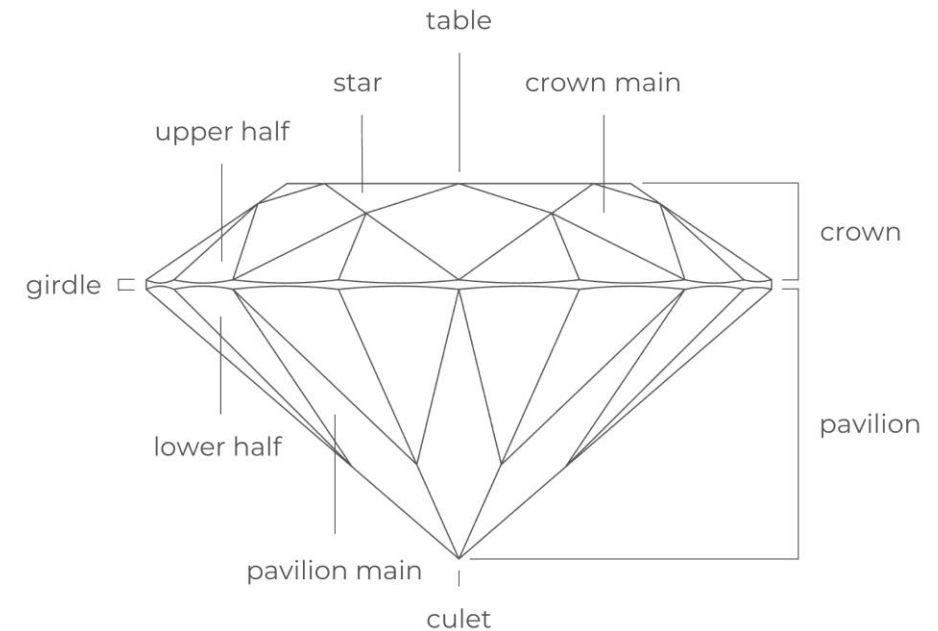
# Sanctification “How-tos”



# Practice the Spiritual Disciplines

- Bible Reading
- Prayer
- Praise and Worship
- Giving and Tithing (Stewardship)
- Service to Others

# **(Twelve) Facets of Spiritual Formation** *Conformed to His Image* (Kenneth Boa)



# Paradigm Spirituality

- “This approach to spirituality centers on **the radical contrasts between the temporal and the eternal value systems** and emphasizes the need for a paradigm shift from a cultural to a biblical way of seeing life” (Boa 21).
- “But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29)



# Paradigm Spirituality

## (Colossians 3:1-17)

- If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.
- <sup>5</sup> Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality . . . and covetousness, which is idolatry. . . <sup>8</sup> But now you must put them all away: anger . . . slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. . .
- <sup>12</sup> Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,
- <sup>14</sup> And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.
- <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

# Paradigm Spirituality

- Temporal value system: money, materialism, (political) power
- Eternal value system: righteousness/salvation, holiness, compassion
- Chuck Swindoll: The only things that last forever are the Word of God and people
- “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (Matthew 6:33)

# Corporate Spirituality

- “We come to faith as individuals, but we grow in community. A meaningful context of encouragement, accountability, and worship is essential to spiritual maturity, since this involves the others-centered use of spiritual gifts for mutual edification.”

--Kennth Boa, *Conformed to His Image*

# Corporate Spirituality

- <sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
and his courts with praise! (Psalm 100:4)
- This is the day the Lord has made; we will be glad in it! (Psalm 118:24)



**Let Us Pray**

A photograph of two hands raised in prayer, holding a glowing white cross. The hands are silhouetted against a bright sunset sky with orange and yellow clouds. The sun is visible through the cross, creating a lens flare effect. The background is dark on the left side where the text is located.