



Church of Christ

January 28, 2001

204 Dix Road Jefferson City, MO 65109

Heart to Heart...

APursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.@ (Heb. 12:14) What does God expect our lives to go after? Peace with others and *the sanctification*.@ Sanctification is where we were separated from evil and made holy to God. We were *Asanctified*@ when we entered Christ Jesus (I Cor. 1:2). ABy this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.@ (Heb. 10:10) Christ sanctified us! Paul writes to the Colossian brethren, AAnd so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved...@ (Col. 3:12) We are holy to God. We are set apart for God.

What are we to do with our *sanctification*? **Pursue it!** We have to go after a life that is holy. It is done as we humbly follow God's word, His ways. It's putting off the old ways, our old life style that was tied to sin and death and putting on the things of God. It's not something that happens immediately but is something grown in. That's why we are told to *Apursue the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord*.@ If we don't pursue *the sanctification* we possess in Christ, we don't understand what happened to us when we were baptized into Christ.

ABut now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.@ (Rom. 6:22) To be free from sin and united with God is what brought us our sanctification. God is holy and only those in a holy relationship can come close to God. We are holy because of Christ! We need to pursue that holiness in our lives. That means cleaning up the actions that once enslaved us. If one was enslaved to alcohol, Christ set them free. They are to pursue a life that is separate from alcohol. That's *the sanctification*! If we were liars in the past, Christ forgave and set you free. Stop the lying and speak truth. That's *the sanctification*! If our tongues were used in loose ways, profane words and speech that doesn't benefit, Christ forgave and sanctified you. Place your tongue under God's control and use words that are helpful and meaningful. By not pursuing *the sanctification*, you will destroy the work of Christ and not see the Lord. Sometimes it seems people fight to stay in their old, sinful ways and not even be concerned about *the sanctification*. I can guarantee, they won't see the Lord no matter what they believe!

Our lives need to be lived in light of the Lord and our relationship to Him. God is holy and those who come near Him must be holy. We can't do that on our own. It takes a complete cleansing from Christ to make us holy. AAs obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves in all your behavior.@ (I Pet. 1:14-15) Let's not go backward to our former lusts. Let's move deeper into the sanctifying work of the Lord by taking more of His nature and changing our lives. It takes effort, discipline and faith! If we don't believe we have been sanctified, then we won't pursue *the sanctification* and will ultimately be lost, again. That's not Christ's work. It's not God's desire. Is it ours? Think about it!!!

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