

We continue our study based upon J.C Ryles book Holiness.

last week was part 2 with Sanctification.

We saw its our responsibility to yield to scripture- there are things we are expected to do in obedience to scripture. We do and we obey because we love the Lord and there is a desire to be conformed into His image. *2 John 1:6 And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.*

We saw that we are saved by grace through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ. Not by works lest any man should boast. Yet Scripture clearly instructs us to work out our salvation with fear and trembling. **The true Christian takes heed. Is a doer and not just a hearer only.** Take ye heed, watch and pray. Eagerly desire the spiritual milk of the word of God that ye may grow there by. Take heed lest you become lukewarm. ... not neglecting to meet together, *Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

Set your eyes on things above not things of the earth... these are all Christian duties and privileges. The more we practise Gods Word the more we bear the image of Christ. **We not only bear just the name of Christ, but we are called to be His people bearing His image.**

1 Peter 1:15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,

Now we ask the Question what are the Visible marks of Sanctification.

- (1) True sanctification is not just talk *about religion*. People hear a watered down Gospel, and gladly receive it. Worse still some hear a twisted Gospel that promises and is mainly focused on earthly blessing and wealth and gladly receive it. They talk about it saying, I've found peace with the Lord. I've found Grace. I am saved. But just because you say you are a believer doesn't mean you are?

Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

The new birth is powerful every aspect of our life is affected. We are new creations in Christ Jesus. Our walk and deeds now governed and in truth that

shows we are really the Lords, that we are changed and new people. A pleasing one to the Lord.

No amount of speaking and saying we reverence you Lord, we worship you **will be acceptable unless the Life is acceptable**, unless the life has been made new in Christ Jesus. *"Not every one that saith."* We may believe in our Lord's Deity, and we may say it over and over again - *"Lord, Lord"*; but **unless we carry out the commands of the Father, we pay no true Worship to the Son.**

We may call him *"Lord, Lord"* but if we never practically carry out and be a doer of Gods word, what is the value of our sayings?

The Kingdom of God isn't for those who only say Lord Lord and never do what He commands, but only those whose lives display the obedience of true discipleship.

1 John 3:18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

Its more than a temporary religious feeling. Oh, I sensed Gods presence wasn't it a wonderful meeting. There may be a big meeting with crowds attending. There is so much activity. Remember that whenever wheat is sown the devil will sow tares as well. It looks like many are being awakened and responding to the preaching of the Gospel, while in reality their hearts are not changed at all.

As we read in the Gospel, they receive the word with Joy and after a while they go back to the world worse and harder than they were.

Let's not cry peace peace when there is no peace. Let's be sure to exhort everyone who shows an interest in the Gospel **to be satisfied with nothing less than a changed life, a life that comes out of darkness into His glorious light. A life solid and yielded to the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit.** Great Excitement doesn't bring change.

It's a false feeling of security to believe you are a Christian just because you say. "I'm the Lords" while there is absolutely no change, while they still love and enjoy sin. **Oh that our love would be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.** There is no position more dangerous for a soul then to think they are saved because of feelings.

I would rather see, and I would say, its better by far to begin more slowly, and then “**continue in the word**” steadfastly, than begin in a hurry, without counting the cost, and by and by look back, with Lot’s wife, and return to the world.

Sanctification does not consist in the *occasional performance of right actions.* Actions like King Herod. *Mark 6:20 For Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just man and an holy, and observed him; and when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly.* He feared John and had a friendly attitude towards Him, **Herod even respected Him**, He did many things under the influence of John the Baptist, yet his heart was utterly wrong in the sight of God.

So many people have a respect for Christianity they spontaneously do many right things under the **influence of sickness**, affliction, death in the family, public calamities, or a **sudden unease of conscience**.

Once I was in Uganda straying overnight in a hotel. There was a noisy bar downstairs in the Hotel with loud music. Suddenly there was a strong earthquake, screams of terror and after a few minutes the music started once again. This happened again then the third time the music was turned off and to my surprise they began singing a Hymn! But their hearts were still wrong within them.

The visible proof of a sanctified person It is the **new heavenly principle within**, which **affects all a man’s daily conduct**, both in big things and in small. Its wholeheartedly serving the Lord. Its holding fast to all of Gods commandments and turning away and hating every false way. There is a **determined decision to put Gods word and ways first**. To seek Christs will in everything. To gladly out of love and reverence submit to Gods every way. **It is like a perpetual fountain**, from which a stream is ever flowing, not stopping and starting.

True sanctification is more than outward religious practices. It’s not how loud you pray, it’s not how long you pray, it’s not even church attendance although attending church is good, it can’t guarantee that a person is right. How many do we know who are only religious on Sunday, but the rest of the week live far below Christian standards. It’s not because you wear a cross hanging around

your neck that you are a Christian. It's not because you keep a bible next to your bed. It's not because you fast or pay a tithe, or give and offering. **External religion is not a substitute for internal holiness.** True sanctification is of the heart and affects every part of a persons life.

Sanctification is not living isolated from the world. Like monks in a monastery. Or nuns in a convent. That doesn't make them holy. It is not the man who hides himself in a cave, **but the man who glorifies God** as a director or a labourer, parent or child, in the family and in the street, in business and in trade, **who is the Scriptural type of a sanctified man.** Who is a light in the Darkness, salt in the corruption. One who provides a pattern of living that is worthy of following. Who can say like the Apostle Follow me as I follow Christ.

A person who resists evil, flees from even the appearance of evil.

A person who out of principle must live GODLY in this present evil world. God's grace hath appeared to all men - *Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Titus 2:12*

Our Lord Himself said in His last prayer, *"I pray not that Thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldest keep them from the evil."* (John 17:15.)

While there are many more ways according to scripture. These are some of the genuine marks of a sanctified man

Now finally let us consider the distinction between Justification and Sanctification. We must remember two distinct things - the points where **they agree** and the points where **they differ.**

How are they alike? Both proceed and come from the free grace of God It is Gods gift alone that we are either Justified of Santified. **Both are part of the work of Salvation.** Those who are Justified are always sanctified. And those who are sanctified are always Justified.

Christ is the fountain of life from which Pardon and Holiness flow. Christ is the root. Both begin at the same time the moment we begin to be Justified we also begin to be Sanctified. Both are absolutely necessary for salvation. A new heart and forgiveness of sins by the blood of Jesus Christ is the way to heaven.

Now let's look how they differ.

Justification is a finished work that is done for us by the Lord Himself. The righteousness we have is not our own its been imparted unto us. Our own works have no place at all in Justification Its by Grace through faith alone. We don't grow in Justification – **Sanctification is** a progressive work, and a continual growth and enlargement as long as a man lives

Justification is a complete and finished work. **Sanctification** is an imperfect work, comparatively, and will never be perfected until we reach heaven.

Justification has special reference **to our soul** our inner man our standing in Gods sight, and our deliverance from guilt. **Sanctification has special reference to our nature** to the moral renewal of our hearts. Justification gives us a title for heaven. While Sanctification gives us meetness for heaven

Justification is an act God does in us and can't easily be discerned by others. Sanctification is a work within us and cannot be hidden from the eyes of men.

What remains is to bring this subject to conclusion with a few plain words of application. Let us keep the thought awake at the dangerous condition of a nominal Christian without holiness. A person that displays no fruit. **Remember that no man shall see the Lord without holiness.** How many church goers are unchanged, fruitless and on the broad way to destruction.

If we would be sanctified it begins with Christ. We must Go to Him, we must be reconciled to Christ and cry unto Him for mercy and grace. The very first step to sanctification is Justification.

Let us never be ashamed of making much of sanctification and contending for the high standard of a holy life.

let us *make sure work of our own condition*, and never rest till we feel and know that we are being "sanctified" ourselves. Its not what we hope to become, we

examine our lives now what am I now? What things do I do? Are we sanctified or not? If not we are to blame. The fault is ours. The way to sanctification is plain. We begin with Christ, then we continue in Christ. We have a life of a daily walk with Christ. We draw strength every day from His word, His grace which is laid up for His people. This is the secret, our sanctification is progressive.

Believers that stand still, are neglecting close communion with the Lord and grieving the Spirit. Some of the final words of prayer of our Lord on the night before His crucifixion, "Sanctify them." This is His will and He will help every one who applies themselves and comes by faith to Him and desires to be more Holy.

Don't expect too much from our own hearts- at the best we will find that we fail every hour and need grace every moment. The more light we have the more we see our imperfection. We were sinners when we began and we will find out we are still sinners on the way, to the very end. Yes renewed and justified sinners but sinners to the end. Our complete sanctification comes at the end . perfection at the end.

Holiness is happiness No man goes through life more comfortably than the sanctified man. The general rule in the long run of life, it will be the sanctified people that are the happiest people on earth. They have solid comforts built upon solid foundations, which the world can neither give nor take away.

The ways of wisdom are peace, Proverbs 3:17 Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. Great peace have those who love the Law. Psalm 119:165 "My yoke is easy and my burden is light." whoever trusts in Jehovah, happy *is* he.