

Kenmore Baptist Church Message Outline October 11 (am) – Pat Hegarty

What's in a Name
Jehovah-M'Kiddish – I am your Sanctifier

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 5:23

God Himself is our sanctifier – He takes the initiative to set us apart as holy, to purify us and to restore us.

To be sanctified broadly means to be in a “*state of proper functioning*”. In a theological context it means we are to be and do as our Creator has designated – to be holy and set above the dysfunction of our broken world.

'Consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am the LORD your God. Keep my decrees and follow them. I am the LORD, who makes you holy.' Leviticus 20:7-8

He does this for both your sake, and that of the world we are called to influence.

God will never give up on you – He is relentless

God calls Himself our sanctifier – it is His name and therefore within His character to make us holy.

The fact that God loves us as we are should not be construed as a love that will leave us less than we can be.

“Through and Through”

God is in the business of sanctifying each of us and every part of us. Paul prays that He would do that in our spirit, soul and body.

Note the order – God works from the heart outwards.

The Restorative work of Sanctification

1) Spirit

Much of God’s work here is to restore our hearts in an adoptive sense, so that we might know and operate from His love. He defines identity, heals wounds, and brings us “home to the Father”

“The Spirit testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children”

- Adoption – Romans 8:15
- Dismissing of illegal demonic interference – 2 Corinthians 1:22
- Inner healing – Ephesians 3:16-19; Philippians 4:7

Some deny the need for God to be at work in our personal spirit (heart) because of the interpretation of verses such as:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 2 Corinthians 5:17.

This is a positional statement. As confirmed in Colossians 3:1, we are seated (positionally, spiritually and legally) with Christ, but that requires us to reason and live from that place.

*Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above.
(Colossians 3:1)*

Just as we aren't physically in heaven now (as a literal reading would suggest) we have access to live from that perspective and power.

Sanctification and salvation should be seen at three levels:

- *We are saved* POSITIONALLY
- *We are being saved* PROGRESSIVELY
- *We will be saved* PERFECTLY

This progressive sanctification is what Paul prays for in our Spirit, soul and Body.

The reality is that, as with so much in kingdom life – **that which is available is not necessarily automatic**. We are partners with God in every sense, and must cooperate with His desire for us to be restored.

2) Soul

This is the essentially conscious side of our inner worlds – our mind, will and emotions.

Here we retain our choice to think in accordance with the old nature (translated “flesh”), which is actually now powerless, or the Spiritual nature which is alive through Christ.

God sanctifies our soul through the cleansing power of His word which is truth. He counters the lies of the evil one, calling us to repent and believe in Him (Mark 1:5)

Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation--but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. (Romans 8:12)

3) Body

God often heals our bodies in many ways, and yet ultimately this decaying tent will die. Our full sanctification remains in the next life with God, perfect and whole forever.

The Sanctification that sets us apart

(We) "have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit" 1 Peter 1:2

It is God who determines who you are and what is possible in your life. The world often puts us in a box that is too small and defined. Even we limit what might be by setting goals and directions that immediately limit what God might have in mind.

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him" 1 Corinthians 2:9

God will never give up on what He has prepared for you, and neither should you. He loves you as you are, but loves you too much to leave you there.