

God Time – Jesus Our Sanctifier

Monday: Romans 5: 1-10

Tuesday: Romans 6:1-11

Wednesday: Romans 6:12-14

Thursday: Philippians 2:1-11

Friday: Ephesians 3:1-15

Keep It Active

1. Work on memorizing the memory verse for this week.
2. Spend some God time reading your Bible daily (even if you start with 10 minutes a day).
Watch for opportunities to see His will at work in your life.

Diving Deeper

How to have personal renewal

1 Peter 1:16

Holiness begins at the cross where Jesus covered our sins through His death so that we might be justified and made right with God. It is His death as an expression of love that cleanses and purifies us so that God no longer sees our iniquities but the righteousness of Jesus which has been imputed to the new believer. The old creation is gone and the new has come for those who are in Christ. It is at this point that we begin a process of sanctification in which we become more and more like Christ. *“But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do, for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.” (1 Peter 1:16)* The scripture is calling us to be holy for to be like Jesus demands that we also be holy.

But what is this process of sanctification? This process can best be understood when we recognize and acknowledge that we are part of the body of Christ being built up by God and the mortar holding us together is the Holy Spirit. As believers in Christ, we are His materials regardless of our race, our gender, where we live, rich or poor, whether gentile or Jew. We each

have a unique contribution to make to the building project. As a mason shaped a stone, he took into consideration the shape of the stones on either side. The new stone was shaped to fit in that space perfectly. The mason must strike the stone and shape it by removing some of the stone and smoothing it so that the stone will match its place in the wall. That is the picture of how sanctification within the body of Christ works. When we come together as God's people each of us have some rough edges that need to be reshaped by our mason, the Holy Spirit, who chisels us by the word of God.

The process can be painful at times and can cause conflicts, wounded egos, and hurt feelings. But if we give the process time, we will eventually see the fruits of that process. We become effective witnesses of Jesus when we become Christlike so that as we go from place to place people see the character and qualities of Jesus. It is as Jesus promised, that as He departs from this world, we will receive the power of the Holy Spirit to transform us into a new creation. The Spirit knows God, knows Christ and seeks to build us up so that we might be Christlike; the Spirit fills our emptiness and is actively and quietly working on our behalf. The Holy Spirit's primary function is to point people to the finished work of Jesus. Why? So, that we might be holy, just like our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

1. What does holiness mean to you?
2. If the Holy Spirit is shaping us to be more like Christ, what is our role in the process of sanctification?
3. Is sanctification a process that can be evaluated and measured?
4. Think about how your past week. Were you able to identify times that you demonstrated a more Christlike attitude?