

BE YE CLEAN THAT BEARS THE VESSEL OF THE LORD

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Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore COME OUT from among them, and BE YE SEPARATE, saith the Lord, and TOUCH NOT THE UNCLEAN THING; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. 2Co 6:18

"Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, touch no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the LORD" Isa 52:11

There are initial sanctification and progressive sanctification. The initial sanctification process has two distinct stages from the scriptures read. All believers must come out and be separated from the midst of unbelievers and their works mainly living in perpetual sin, iniquity and transgressions; and believers must touch not the unclean things while progressive sanctification has to do with "be ye clean, ye that bears the vessel of the Lord". One distinct feature of believers is that we are carriers of the Holy Spirit or rather the vessel of holiness that cohabitate with our spirit man and so it is important that we imbibe the Holy Spirit culture of holiness or holy lifestyle literarily and progressively purging out every junk from our hearts and progressively cultivating pure heart.

Every one that want to become pure in heart goes through the continual purging of the old leaven such that the new is birthed forth day by day in an increasing measure as we look at the mirror of the WORD of God daily [behold the truth/word of God], and we increasingly become transformed into the image of Christ hereby bearing less of our old man in a decreasing measure on a regular basis [2 Cor. 3:16-18]. This process is called becoming like Jesus who is our sanctification [1 Cor. 1:30]. It is this process where basic Christian moral values which are the underlying fundamental beliefs, basic pillars that determines your spiritual maturity and all other devout virtues that determines your godliness and Christ like behaviors are inculcated, imbibed or cultivated. This helps us to know how to behave ourselves in an orderly and reverential manner in the house of God. [1 Tim. 3:15]. It helps us to maintain right posture and behavior so that we do not bring disrepute, disgrace, shame and dishonor to the name of the Lord and to the Church of the Living God.

Only the sanctified, purified, dedicated, separated or hallowed that is set apart for God's use can become like Jesus always striving for perfection, and furnished unto all good works [2 Tim. 3:17]

and such continue to confess and renounce the old carnal lifestyle or have a radical detest of the past evil behavioral lifestyle that would have prevent them from growing or maturing spiritually. When Apostle Paul became converted, there was a sharp departing from the old lifestyle, and he strived to walk in all Christian godly character, ethics and morality. We do not depart from all sinful lifestyle immediately we become born again, there are imperfections, sin, iniquity and transgressions that we are still struggle with but must eventually get rid of if we yield to the nudging of the Holy Spirit and receive with meekness the engrafted words that will save our souls.

We all must first remember the first admonition, we must get out from the laps of Delilah else we shall be ensnared like Samson! We must come out of every association, relationship and unholy and evil communication in order to maintain the cleanliness of our vessel and so as not to yield back to evil that men does that makes them top become spiritually dirty, polluted, full of spots and blemishes. It is a continuous and forever works of purging and cleansing.

"Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls" James 1:21

"So get rid of all immoral behavior and all the wicked things you do. Humbly accept the word that God has placed in you. This word can save you. Do what God's word says. Don't merely listen to it, or you will fool yourselves. If someone listens to God's word but doesn't do what it says, he is like a person who looks at his face in a mirror, studies his features, goes away, and immediately forgets what he looks like. However, the person who continues to study God's perfect teachings that make people free and who remains committed to them will be blessed. People like that don't merely listen and forget; they actually do what God's teachings say. If a person thinks that he is religious but can't control his tongue, he is fooling himself. That person's religion is worthless" James 1:26

At new birth, our spirit is saved but it takes a continual, lifetime process of mortifying the deeds or works of the flesh for our soul and body to be saved. As in the above scripture, there have to be a divine exchange as we lay aside all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness and receive with meekness the engrafted word that saves or soul.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, HOLY, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not CONFORMED to this world: but be ye TRANSFORMED by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" Rom 12:1-2 KJV

"So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life--your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life--and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for

you is the best thing you can do for him. DON'T BECOME so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it WITHOUT EVEN THINKING. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, ALWAYS DRAGGING YOU DOWN to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, DEVELOPS WELL-FORMED MATURITY in you" Romans 12:1-2 Message Bible

Our bodies must on a daily basis be presented as a living sacrifice on the altar of God while our soul must be renewed by the word of God on a daily basis. It is the altar that sanctifies a gift [Matt. 23:19], so the altar of purification takes us the raw gold [believer newly born again] and continues to apply baptism of fire until we become pure like gold, sanctified and fit for the master's use; so if our body has been presented to God on an altar, it simply means it now belong to God and we cannot do whatever we want to do with it. We must not join His body to that of a harlot or use His body to curse or release anger. We must actually ask the new owner for permission to do anything with His body else "every unauthorized use" will result in violation of the code of conducts or commandment of the Lord.

"You know that your bodies belong to the Messiah, don't you? Should I take what belongs to the Messiah and unite them with a prostitute? Certainly not!" 1Cor. 6:15 ISV

"Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding". Prov. 9:6

Doing all manner of sexual perverseness with your body as a believer is to actually join the body of Christ to an infidel to do what is contrary to Christ with his body which incurs the wrath of God and bring fierce judgment from the Throne Room of Grace. If you are given to fierce anger, bitterness or unforgiveness, you are actually using the body of Christ to do evil and judgment will be meted out! So sanctification is a separation unto God to do only what His Spirit tells you to do, it is an imputing of Christ-like behavior especially His holy lifestyle in everything we do, being made pure from all moral evil, and being conformed to the image and likeness of Christ in an ever increasing progression.

So we have been sanctified, we are being sanctified and shall yet be sanctified since it is a continual progressive work of God through the Word and the Spirit of God. Sanctification is a DEMAND rather than an option! It is critical, vitally important and a bedrock to personal growth and maturity. We must embrace it if we want to see all the glorious acts of God found in the book of Acts in our days. Spiritual strength, maturity and infusion of the GLORY of God in the Church is dependent on a Church that is willing to minister and embrace the Apostolic doctrine such that the old leaven is purged out and we all behold the face of the Lord in holiness and right standing with God. Church

growth and maturity is not about numbers of members in the congregation but the Christ-like measure or percentage of holiness and righteous acts of the people of God in the Church.

This is the only way that our whole spirit and soul and body can be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ [1 Thess. 5:23]. Everyone who is of the truth or a true and genuine believer must undergo this process in order to become like Jesus or like the original man created in the image and likeness of God [Gen. 1:26]. This is ultimately crucial because only such man can be blessed, fruitful, multiply, subdue, reign and have dominion [Gen. 1:28].

"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" John 17:17

The truth that sanctifies believers is the WORD of God [utterance, reasoning or thoughts of God called "logos"]. That is why it is recorded in the scripture that we are washed by the washing of the water by the WORD of God.

"That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish" Eph. 5:26-27

*"He made the church holy **by the power of his word**, and he made it pure by washing it with water. Christ did this, so that he would have a glorious and holy church, without faults or spots or wrinkles or any other flaws" Eph. 5:26-27 CEV*

All the blemishes, spots and old behavioral pattern are removed through the process of sanctification and cleansing through the ministry of the Word of God. Until then the Church of God cannot carry the GLORY that belongs to Him. This is the only process through which we can be made holy. To sanctify is to "set apart for God's special purpose or work and to be made holy or sacred. The Greek word translated "sanctification" ("hagiasmos") means "holiness." To sanctify, therefore, means "to make holy, set apart for God."

"And I will SANCTIFY my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, saith the Lord GOD, when I shall be SANCTIFIED IN YOU before their eyes. For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. Then will I sprinkle CLEAN water upon you, and ye shall be CLEAN: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I CLEANSE you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I

will be your God. I will also save you from all your UNCLEANNESSES: and I will call for the corn, and will increase it, and lay no famine upon you. And I will multiply the fruit of the tree, and the increase of the field, that ye shall receive no more reproach of famine among the heathen. Then shall ye remember your own evil ways, and your doings that were not good, and shall loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and for your abominations. Thus saith the Lord GOD; In the day that I shall have cleansed you from all your iniquities I will also cause you to dwell in the cities, and the wastes shall be built.” Ezekiel 36:23-35

We must use scriptures to interpret scriptures in order to get a better understanding of what we are studying. It is the clean water of the word of God that will be used by God to remove all our uncleanness such that we can now walk in the principles of holiness with a new heart and a new spirit has been given to us coupled with the infusion of the Spirit of God and believers can now obey the ordinances of God and walk in His statutes; only then can corn for sustenance, wine for insight and revelation knowledge and oil for anointing be bestowed upon us in an increasing measure as we yield ourselves to God’s ordained way of increased sanctification.

“... for He is like a refiner’s fire, and like fullers’ soap: And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.” Mal. 3:2, 3

God sits as the refiner for we are like raw gold full of impurities when we become born again and we have to be purified, purged and cleansed by the washing of our hearts using the fuller’s soap for our cleansing. Baptism of fire removes the filth that corrupts from us as we yield ourselves to its refining works.

A great servant of God called Quampad described sanctification as “a conscious effort to avoid unwholesome and sinful behavior in endeavoring to lead a morally upright life that conforms to the standard of righteousness revealed in scripture. Holiness is an attribute of God that expresses itself in purity, transparency, and immaculate nature and is not tinted by any kind of evil. God demands that human beings who want to have a relationship with him should be sanctified – that is, they must be people who are focused on rising to the same standard of holiness: The Lord said to Moses, ‘Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy’ [Lev. 19:1-2]

“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free... If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.” John 8:32, 36

Believers will still be ensnared and kept in bondage if they have not allow the truth [“aletheia” - unveiled reality] to be in their hearts and they walk in its consciousness by doing the will of the Father from a pure heart. The word “know” [know the truth] is the Greek word “ginosko” and it means to come into an experiential knowledge such that you walk in mastery and nothing can affect you negatively against the knowledge that you have acquired and so it is declared that you are free from the demonic powers that works through the tragedy of ignorance to keep gullible men in bondage to the elements of the world because they walk in darkness and are blind to the truth that sets free. Jesus the living word always use the spoken or written word to set us free from bondage.

“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come” John 16:13

Jesus the truth personified is using the Spirit of truth called the Holy Spirit to take hold of the written or spoken word and to engrave it in our hearts through the process of “replacement by displacement”, so that the old carnal “filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness” can be laid apart, and we receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls [James 1:21]. And we hereby become doers of the word” [James 1:21-25, John 6:63]

Sanctification is hereby a continuous work of grace whereby the Holy Spirit through the ministry of the Word of God separates us from the corruptive and contaminating worldly influences, hereby producing His fruit of the Spirit in us [Galatians 5:22-24] and conforming us into the image of the Lord Jesus Christ [2 Cor. 3:16-18].

“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.” John 16:13

The Holy Spirit take hold of appropriate word of God per time and like laser beam imprints it into our hearts such that when occasion arises that word will cause us to walk in line with God’s directives. For example when Satan told Jesus to turn stone to bread and eat, Jesus having the words written on His heart went to Deut. 8:3 and declared ... ‘man does not live by bread alone but by the word of God.’

“But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searches all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knows no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might KNOW the things that are freely given to us of God” 1 Cor. 2:9-12

Again, using scriptures to interpret scriptures, the above scripture declares that the Holy Spirit searches and make known to us these things, such that were given to us to know in order to overcome every attempt of Satan to cause us to walk after the old order. The word 'know' in the above scripture is the Greek word "eido" meaning understand. The Holy Spirit hereby gives us the ability to understand how to apply the revealed words such that we do not sin against God and do not follow the old carnal lifestyle.

"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By TAKING HEED thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" Psalms 119:9-11

The more we look at the perfect law that liberates from the bondage to sin, the more we see that we must take heed to the word of God and hide it in our hearts so that when opportunity comes to do right or wrong, we will reach out to the depths of God's word in us, pick out of the perfect law of liberty there and do what is right in the sight of God and that is the continuous process of sanctification from one level to another.

"Nevertheless the foundation of God stand sure, having this seal, The Lord knows them that are his. And, Let everyone that name the name of Christ depart from iniquity. But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honor, and some to dishonor. If a man therefore PURGE HIMSELF FROM THESE, he shall be a vessel unto honor, SANCTIFIED, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work. Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strife. And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the ACKNOWLEDGING OF THE TRUTH; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will" 2Tim. 2:19-26

Those who walk with God, hear what the SPIRIT OF TRUTH continuously speak to the body of Christ and obey those directives and live; but unsanctified men with darkened hearts hears that the devil [spirit of error] or carnal mind tells them to do and walk therein and are ensnared. [1John 4:6].

Sanctification hereby implies a conscious effort to avoid unwholesome and sinful lifestyle in endeavoring to lead a morally upright life that conforms to the standard of righteousness revealed in the scriptures.

"Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" Phil. 2:12

Consecration is prerequisite to sanctification and it is men's response to the demands of sanctification. It is the process by which believers work out their salvation with trembling. There are many meaning of consecration. One is "male mala" meaning to be full of ; such folks are separated from the world system and are so full of godly virtues and purging process becomes easier because they easily flush out ungodly virtues and strive for mastery. Another meaning of consecration is the Hebrew word "charam" which means to separate or be secluded from what pollutes or ungodly lifestyles and hereby devoted to God. Thirdly is "nazar" a Hebrew word meaning abstain or set apart for sacred purposes. When you by the grace of God which teaches us to deny all ungodliness [Titus 2:11] set yourself apart for holy use through consecration then the Spirit of God will work the process of sanctification in you such that you become more and more like Jesus in an ever increasing measure.

"But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth ... For this is the will of God, that you should be consecrated (separated and set apart for pure and holy living): that you should abstain and shrink from all sexual vice, That each one of you should know how to possess (control, manage) his own body in consecration (purity, separated from things profane) and honor, Not [to be used] in the passion of lust like the heathen, who are IGNORANT of the true God and have no knowledge of His will" 1 Thess. 2:13, 4:3-5 AMPC

We must continually purge and cleanse ourselves body, soul and spirit so that if the devil come with his antics he will have nothing evil or bad in us that will respond to his enticement to walk in the flesh.

"Therefore, since these [great] promises are ours, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that contaminates and defiles body and spirit, and bring [our] consecration to completeness in the [reverential] fear of God" 2 Cor. 7:1 AMPC

"My friends, God has made us these promises. So we should stay away from everything that keeps our bodies and spirits from being clean. We should honor God and try to be completely like him." 2Cor. 7:1