

Sunday Sermon Notes

"Impossibly Possible"

I understand that:

To sanctify means to "make holy"

To be holy means to be like Jesus

To be like Jesus means to love

My problem: Holiness seems so out of reach

Five reasons I have to believe in holiness:

God wills it:

It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality. 1 Thessalonians 4:3:

If it is God's will, it should be my will

We are commanded to be holy:

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 1:15-16

What God commands, he makes possible

Jesus prays for it:

Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. John 17:17

If Jesus asks for something, it will happen

It is promised to those who seek it:

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Matthew 5:6

What God promises, he fulfills

Jesus died to make us holy:

And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood. Hebrews 13:12

Jesus' sacrifice makes my holiness possible

If sanctification is up to me, it is impossible (this is works)

If sanctification is up to God, it is possible (this is grace)

Digging Deeper

Notes for Individual Meditation and Small Group Discussion

Reviewing the Sermon:

Why do you think we are so reluctant to talk about being holy or becoming holy? Why do you think so many people just dismiss the idea of becoming holy as impossible?

Which of the reasons pastor names in the sermon for believing in holiness is most convincing to you? Which one had you not thought of before?

If holiness is truly an impossibility, then what does that say about what the Bible teaches about being holy? Can you think of any reasons God would command us to be something that it was impossible for us to become?

Why is it so important for us to distinguish between sanctification not being something we do, but something God does?

How does this sermon affect your opinion about the possibility of holiness in your life?

Bible Study: Romans 8:1-11

Discussion Questions

(Remember that not all questions must be used)

In Romans 8 Paul describes the Christian life as a life to be lived "In the Spirit." It is actually a description of the "Spirit-filled life." Our purpose in this study is to learn what Paul is teaching us about this life.

How does knowing there is “no condemnation” help you to feel better about the Christian life? Why do so many of us continue to feel condemned even though we have been set free?

Why do you think “the law” is unable to really change our behavior? Why do some Christians continue to try to change themselves by following “laws” instead of relying on Jesus/

How do you think God sending his Son actually makes a difference in our ability to not live according to the sinful nature, but instead to live according to the Spirit?

Verses 5-8 contrast those who live according to the sinful nature with those who live according to the Spirit. What do you think it means to “live according to the sinful nature”? What does it mean to “live according to the Spirit.” (Note, how does substituting the words “in dependence upon” for “according to” help your understanding?}

What do you notice about the differences between the two lifestyles? What does verse 8 tell us about the impossibility of pleasing God when living according to the sinful nature?

What do you think Paul is trying to say in verse 9? If a person is living a life of dependence on the sinful nature, what does that say about his or her relationship with Christ?

What good news does Paul teach in verses 10 and 11? What does this say about how the Spirit-filled Christian lives his or her life? How does this contrast with what you see in the lives of some of the Christians you know? How about your own Christian life?

Prayer Time: Pray that God will help the members of your group to not only learn about holiness, but to experience what God wants them to experience in their lives.

Sanctified and Holy

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Romans 8:1-4

***“Impossibly
Possible”***

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Master copy of notes and audio version of the sermon at
www.middletownnaz.com