

Lesson #1 – Marriage & the Gift of Sanctification

Westminster Shorter Catechism- “Sanctification is the work of God’s free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.”

Theme – Your sanctification demands your _____, but it is accomplished by _____.

Key Truth — God uses the marriage relationship as a tool of _____ which brings Him _____ and maximizes our _____ of Him.

The _____ to Sanctification

Truth 1: Sanctification _____ Your Maximum _____ vs. 12

Truth 2: Sanctification is _____ by God Alone vs. 13

God is at work in you both to _____ and to _____ for His good pleasure.

The _____ of Sanctification

The biblical process for pursuing real spiritual change can be summarized like this:

Step 1: _____

Step 2: _____

Step 3: _____

Sanctification is not passive—it requires _____ while depending on _____.

Application:

1. _____ to Give Your Maximum _____
2. _____ Your Reliance on God's _____
3. _____ The Biblical Process for _____

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it look like practically to “give your maximum effort” toward sanctification?
2. How have you seen God at work in your life producing both the desire and ability to grow?
3. Which step in the process (put off, renew, put on) do you struggle with the most?
4. How would your marriage change if both of you more consistently pursued sanctification?
5. What specific area of sin do you need to begin addressing right away to strengthen your marriage relationship?

Personal Practice of the Process of Change

1. List the sin to be killed:
2. What circumstances “trigger” temptation towards this sin (be specific and exhaustive):

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

3. In what ways does your flesh tempt you to get stuck on step 1 (Put Off)?

4. What are two scripture passages you would like to use to renew your mind when tempted towards this sin?

Passage 1:

Passage 2:

Question: why did you choose these particular passages?

- Now memorize them word perfect and practice them until you can bring them to mind with little effort. (Like John 3:16)
- 5. What righteous virtues would God have you “put on” in place of this sin?

- 6. To practice, think through a real-life situation and mentally walk through the entire process. For example, consider the last time you gave in to this sin. How could you have applied this process in that situation? Write out any observations.

- 7. When will you most likely face a “trigger” towards this sin in the near future?

- 8. Develop a battle plan for that situation ahead of time and spend some time in prayer asking for God to strengthen you in that moment to walk in obedience.

Remember: Once a sin pattern has become known to you: “Failure to plan is planning to fail.”