



SPIRITUAL FAMILY

MATTHEW 12:46-50

PART 7 - SANCTIFICATION

Over the next few resources we will look at what the Father's will is for His church family, as previously stated, Jesus said those who do the will of His Father are His family members. We are going to literally look at what the Scriptures say the Will of God is and we will take some time to expand on this by looking at the eternal macro purpose which the Scriptures also testify to.

So let's start with 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8.

Sanctification and Love

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more. For you know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification. So, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.

We can see from verse 1 there is a way in which we are to walk which is pleasing to the Lord. This way is His way, which is the narrow way. We can only walk this out through the knowing of Jesus through divine revelation. We are to excel more and more in this way.

What are these commandments which Paul had given to the Thessalonian church by the Lord Jesus Christ? These eternal commandments to love God with all we are and love our neighbour with the Father's love, will define so much about whether we will enter into the process of sanctification, which is the Father's will.

As we can see the Holy Scriptures literally say the Will of God for us all is 'sanctification'. So what is sanctification, as we must have entered into this process of transformation to be doing the Will of God.

In simple but profound terms, sanctification is the salvation of our spirit, soul (mind, will and emotions), and body as 1 Thessalonians 5:23 states. It's the complete salvation of our entire being.

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of



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our Lord Jesus Christ.

This sanctification work is done by the Spirit and faith in the truth alone. It is not accomplished through a mental agreement/belief with the Scriptures, but a genuine work of the Holy Spirit, producing a living conviction in the heart of man, which is the will of God for the church.

This will of God taking place in the inner most being place of a follower, enables and empowers us to live out the commandments and the instructions which Jesus has given His church. We can see from the Scriptures that it was for sanctification that He called us for salvation through the gospel, so we may gain Christ's glory in us.

To not be in the Will of God (sanctification), is to not know the reason for your salvation. This in turn means you will come short of gaining the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. The very glory we are to be going from one measure of to another in Him.

QUESTIONS

1. What is your current understanding of the process of sanctification?
2. Why can sanctification only occur through the Spirit and faith in the truth?
3. What is the fruit of this sanctification in our lives?
4. How does not being in this spiritual process of sanctification affect our lives?