

“Broken to Whole”

The Line #2 - Sanctification

INTRODUCTION

At some point in our lives, most of us ask the question “Does my life have purpose?” This week’s sermon considers our “sanctification.” The concept of sanctification includes being set apart for God’s purposes. But to be used for God’s purposes we first must be purified and made whole. That is why our study of sanctification will first examine the brokenness of our lives, and then look at how God can change us, to use us for His purpose.

Ice Breaker (Optional):

Is your natural tendency to repair or replace things when they are broken?

Study Questions (45 MIN)

Important to own our brokenness

Q1. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:23

What did Paul pray for God to do in 1 Thessalonians 5:23? The closer we draw to God, the more we realize that He loves us and longs to see us sanctified; purified and living our lives for His intended purpose. Why would failing to accept our brokenness deny God access to do His work in our lives? What would you say is the most difficult hurdle to overcome in accepting our brokenness?

Q2. Read Hebrews 10:14; Philippians 1:6

Hebrews 10:14 tells us we who are following Christ have been perfectly (completely) forgiven of our sin through the perfect sacrifice of Jesus and are “being sanctified”. Matthew Henry¹ said it this way, “The work of grace is but begun in this life; it is not finished here; as long as we are in this imperfect state there is something more to be done.” Paul assured the Philippians that sanctification would be completed at what time? When you think of your own journey of “broken to whole” what is one thing that you have seen change the most? What area of your life do you sense God is working on currently?

¹A minister in 17th century England

Made whole for God’s purpose

Q3. Read Matthew 5:14-16; John 15:8; 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12; Ephesians 1:7-10

As God addresses our brokenness He uses us for His purposes. It is God who enables us to shine His light, bear fruit and do good works (Matthew 5:14-16; John 15:8; 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12). What do you find is the common consequence in the above verses? What does Ephesians 1:9-10 identify as God’s purpose and how does His purpose for you fit into His grander plan of uniting all things?

Q4 Read 1 Thessalonians 5:24; Psalm 138:8

Living to fulfill God’s purpose in your life is a serious undertaking. If we were trying to accomplish it in our own power we would be overwhelmed. But what assurance are we given in 1 Thessalonians 5:24 and Psalm 138:8? Discuss with your group some of the ways you can be used together to do good works that will bring glory to God.

Wrap-Up

All believers come to God in a state of brokenness, but as long as we are in this life, God continues to sanctify us by healing our brokenness and using us for His purpose. His purpose is to draw people into the kingdom through knowing Jesus as their Savior. God has chosen to use us to shine as lights in this world and do good works that will glorify Him. Thankfully this does not depend on our own ability, but God’s power at work in us. And we have confidence that God is faithful to do just that.

Memory Verse

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Thessalonians 5:23 ESV

Prayer (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members’ needs: (see back for more notes) _____

Challenge: As a group, ask God to give you an opportunity to be the light of the world in some way. Plan to join together in a project that will glorify God.

