

Text: 2 Pt 1

Tonight, I want to float a Bible study theme interrupting our verse-by-verse study of 2 Peter but is based on what we've talked about so far.

You will recall that on the list of virtues, vv. 5-7, I've made these points:

1. These virtues are not the step-by-step pattern for spiritual maturity, rather they highlight the qualities of spiritual maturity everyone needs
2. As a list of qualities, they mirror similar lists in the epistles, specifically the fruit of the Spirit in Gal 5, and the wisdom from above in Jas 3
3. 2 Peter calls us to "apply all diligence" in developing these qualities in our lives.

Last week, I made a comment that you are born again with all these qualities present to some degree in your spiritual life.

In response to that, I got a comment from Dayrle that noted this:

When you mentioned how everything is present at the point of being born-again, I thought that's how it is with our natural birth. We're born with all the parts, they're just not very coordinated. We must learn how to use them. And they need to grow and strengthen.

That's exactly right.

Since then, I've been meditating on what we are learning, and comparing it with the passages to come, especially chapter 2, where Peter goes after the false teachers who "will also be ... among you" (2.1).

So tonight, I want to do a wider ranging topical study on sanctification as the New Testament teaches it. The growth of these qualities in your life is what sanctification is all about, "becoming more holy," "growing in Christ-likeness," and so on.

I'm calling this study "The Fundamentals of Sanctification"

I. Comparing the components of sanctification in the “list passages”

2 Pt 1.5-7	Gal 5.22-23	Jas 3.17-18	Phil 4.8
<p>2 Pt 1.5-7 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in <i>your</i> moral excellence, knowledge,⁶ and in <i>your</i> knowledge, self-control, and in <i>your</i> self-control, perseverance, and in <i>your</i> perseverance, godliness,⁷ and in <i>your</i> godliness, brotherly kindness, and in <i>your</i> brotherly kindness, love.</p>	<p>Gal 5.22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.</p>	<p>Jas 3.17-18 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.¹⁸ And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.</p>	<p>Phil 4.8 ¶ Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.</p>

A. What words sum up these characteristics?

B. What other passages could serve as parallels?

Proposition for this point: Sanctification means diligent development of these qualities in the Christian life.

II. Comparing the components of “anti-sanctification” in contrasting list passages

Jas 3.14-16	Gal 5.19-21	1 Pt 2.1	1 Jn 2.15-17
Jas 3.14-16 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.	Gal 5.19-21 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.	1 Pt 2.1 ¶ Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander,	1 Jn 2.15-17 ¶ Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. ¹⁷ The world is passing away, and <i>also</i> its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

A. What words sum up these characteristics?

B. What other passages could serve as parallels?

Proposition for this point: Sanctification requires persistent decisions to turn away from “anti-sanctification,” or those influences of the world and the flesh that corrupt spiritual life.

III. God’s tools for sanctification

A. Personal devotion

1. Bible reading/study
2. Prayer
3. Scripture memorization

B. Public practice

For each of these, how do they contribute to sanctification?

1. Church attendance
2. Christian social norms (not laws, but norms)

1: an authoritative standard: MODEL

2: a principle of right action binding upon the members of a group and serving to guide, control, or regulate proper and acceptable behavior¹

Synonym, “mores”

1: the fixed morally binding customs of a particular group

2: moral attitudes

3: habits, manners²

3. Public identification with Christ
 - a. Baptism is the first step
 - b. Principled living in the community

What other ways can we grow in our sanctification?

Proposition for this point: Diligent application of the sanctification qualities involves persistent decisions to practice the Christian walk.

Conclusion:

Our study tonight is a little different from our usual approach. I am thinking through this subject and plan to write something up on it later for Proclaim & Defend.

Tonight, I wanted to involve you more in this thinking so that we can get the benefit as a group about thinking about our passage in 2 Peter in light of the whole Bible, or at least the New Testament.

Sanctification is our daily objective as a Christian. Victory over our flesh, over the world, and the devil! We do it by constant reminders of the Christianity 101 topics in our sanctification passages.

¹ Frederick C. Mish, ed., *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th ed. (Springfield, Mass.: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003).

² Mish.