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“Sin Undone”

Justification - declared right in God's sight, free from the penalty of sin, momentary.

Sanctification - “is the act of God by which he, through his Spirit and his Word, is conforming you little by little—or in big steps—into the image of his Son,” (John Piper), a process.

- a. What is the goal of this process? To become Jesus-like

Romans 8:29 (ESV) “For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son”

Phil. 1:6 (ESV) “And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”

- b. Pause: Do you see yourself as *under construction* and others as the same?

Central Theme: Every believer 1) is in a process, 2) to become Jesus-like, and that 3) God oversees this process, but you also have a part to play in this process.

Main Point #1: *Believers still sin*

1. **Ditch #1:** Some people say that Christians no longer sin... there is danger in that.
 - a. When you sin as a believer, you may falsely think that you are not saved.
2. **Ditch #2:** Some people see that God is forgiving and they make their home in sin.

1 John 3:9 (ESV) “No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God.”

Romans 6:1-2 (ESV) “What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?”

- a. Not even logical for anyone who understands the cost.

Main Point #2: If those are the two ditches, then, at the time of me sinning, what is the truth?

- b. No wrath is awakened in God at my sin, because Christ appeased it.

1 John 2:2 (ESV) “He [Christ] is the propitiation for our sins [...]”

- c. How do you imagine God at the moment of your sin?

Main Point #3: What is God's part in the sanctification process?

3. **God's grace ensures that our justified status is sound**
 - a. He jealously wants you back... now!
4. **God disciplines us**
 - a. God does see my sins and He grieves at them so, For when I am sinning, His love I don't know. He even will send me some heart-rending pain, So I'll learn new ways and His holiness gain. His disciplines always are with love imbued, A love that seeks ever my ultimate good. - Milton Vincent

Hebrews 12:7-11 (ESV) “It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? 8 If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. 9 Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? 10 For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. 11 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”

- b. Notice that sanctification is so much more than just what you don't do...
 - i. God wants us to yield "the peaceful fruit of righteousness" - action!

5. Main Point #4: What is my responsibility in the sanctification process?

a. Confess

1 John 1:8-10 (ESV) "8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."

- i. Confess ("Agree") to God

Psalms 32:3-5 (ESV) "For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah"

- ii. Confess to others

James 5:16 (ESV) "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

b. Put to death - (credit to another pastor for these last two)

Romans 8:13-17 (ESV) "13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

- i. Knife fight

c. Throw off everything that entangles

Hebrews 12:1-2a (NIV) "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith."

- i. Don't just ask: "Is it a sin?" Ask: "Does it help me run!?"

Small Group Questions:

Opening question: When in your life have you had to wait for a construction project or remodel to finish? What was it like to wait for the completion of that project?

1. Reread Philippians 1:6. What encouragement can we gain from this verse as we too are "under construction"?
2. What is the difference between justification and sanctification?
3. What are two of the ditches that people fall into and why are they dangerous? See notes
4. Reread Hebrews 12:7-11. Tell of a time when God used pain in your life to teach you.
5. Why is confession to each other (James 5:16) also important?
6. Reread Romans 8:13-17. What does "by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body" look like in your life? (Titus talked about putting to death the sin of sulking.)
7. Reread Hebrews 1:1-2. Can you think of examples in your life of things that are not sin but are still not helping you run your race well? Is God asking you to throw them off?

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