

Sermon Title: Training for Godliness Requires Sanctification

Sermon Text: 2 Timothy 2:20-22

Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to a life honorable use by sanctification.

Sermon Proposition: There are 3 aspects of effectual sanctification in the Household of God.

Introduction:

I. Notice the comparison and contrast. V.20

II. Nurture the consecration and commonality. V.21

III. Negate the non-Christian corruption and normalize the Christian character. V.22

I. Notice the comparison and contrast. V.20

A. The comparison. V.20a

The church is the great house

1 Timothy 3:15 but if I am delayed, *I write* so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

Built on the foundation of Jesus Christ (v.19)

Ephesians 2:20-22 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone*, **21** in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, **22** in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

And the gospel. The vessels in the great house are the individual Christians and guests. The Greek word for vessels is a very general term and was used to describe various tools, utensils, and furniture found in the home. In this “great house” metaphor Paul contrasts two kinds of utensils or serving dishes. Common household vessels would be made of wood and clay, they could be used for practically anything.

B. The contrast. V.20b

Some of the vessels for honor and some for dishonor. Believers are to be vessels of honor for good use. In a wealthy home, the vessels were made of precious “gold” and “silver” and were used for honorable purposes such as serving food to family and guests.

Some of the vessels for dishonor, false teachers and those who followed them were vessels of dishonor, of no good use. Those made of “wood” and “clay” were not made for honorable use, but rather were used for repulsive uses, disposing of garbage and filthy waste of the household.

2 Corinthians 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

II. Nurture the consecration and commonality. V.21

A. The consecration. V.21a

Believers are born again to be vessels of honor,

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Continuously cleansing themselves from false teaching and the ungodliness it produces, so that they are useful in God’s household and His Kingdom. The believer was created for good works.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Whoever wants to be useful to the Lord for noble purposes. Even a common wood bucket, fork, knife, spoon ect. Becomes useful when purged and made holy (sanctified). The phrase “cleanses himself” in the Greek means “to thoroughly clean out,” or to “completely purge something.” In order for any waste bucket to be used in the house, and to be used for a noble purpose, must be vigorously scoured, cleansed, and purged of all identity with its former filth.

Paul refers to be consecrated from the latter, the vessel of dishonor, is one who associates with anyone who teaches error and lives their life in corruption of filth without confession and repentance. (**1 Corinthians 15:33**)

Proverbs 1:10-18 My son, if sinners entice you, Do not consent. **11** If they say, "Come with us, Let us lie in wait to *shed* blood; Let us lurk secretly for the innocent without cause; **12** Let us swallow them alive like Sheol, And whole, like those who go down to the Pit; **13** We shall find all *kinds* of precious possessions, We shall fill our houses with spoil; **14** Cast in your lot among us, Let us all have one purse "-- **15** My son, do not walk in the way with them, Keep your foot from their path; **16** For their feet run to evil, And they make haste to shed blood. **17** Surely, in vain the net is spread In the sight of any bird; **18** But they lie in wait for their *own* blood, They lurk secretly for their *own* lives.

Proverbs 13:20 He who walks with wise *men* will be wise, But the companion of fools will be destroyed.

1 Corinthians 5:6 Your glorying *is* not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

1 Corinthians 5:11 But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner-- not even to eat with such a person.

Titus 1:16 They profess to know God, but in works they deny *Him*, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.

B. The commonality. V.21b

1. The commonality of being **sanctified**.
This is one who has, and is separated from wickedness, and is devoted to being set apart, holy unto God.
2. The commonality of **usefulness**.
Usefulness simply means “able to do the Master’s (despotes) bidding.
Acts 9:15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.
2 Corinthians 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

The potter or maker determines the purpose, function, and use of the vessel.

3. The commonality of **good** works.
The good work in this context of carrying the Gospel into the world, making Disciples, works of repentance, with its corresponding fruit, sanctification, and the fruit of the Spirit. (**1 Timothy 2:10**)
Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.
Titus 3:1 Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work,
Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Paul seeks to focus on the goal of producing and emphasizing of changed lives with evidence of change from opposing to serving Christ and His household. This call for the characteristics of faithful teachers, good soldiers, competing athletes, hardworking farmers, and diligent workman.

III. Negate the non-Christian corruption and normalize the Christian character. V.22

This will require to action, fleeing and pursuing. Believers must understand and be reminded that its not enough to run away from sin, false teachers, and ungodliness, but we must pursue holiness, sound teaching, and godliness, this can be hindered even by becoming entangled in the civilian affairs of life. We must not only remove the filthy clothing, we must put on clean and holy clothing.

A. Negate the non-Christian corruption. V.22a

Paul is just not referring to sexual immorality, but those characteristics of youthfulness that lead to corruption.

1. Sexual immorality
2. Pride
3. Desire for wealth
4. Desire for power
5. Jealousy
6. Self-assertiveness
7. Argumentative spirit

B. Normalize Christian character. V.22b

1. Pursue righteousness – live out your righteousness before God. The Great Commandment.
2. Pursue faith – live out your faith before men. (The Great Commandment)
3. Pursue love – live out God’s love before men.
4. Pursue peace – This may firstly refer to an attitude of quiet composure that would have a neutralizing effect on the combative quarreling of the false teachers and those who oppose the Christian faith (**v.14; 23-24**).
1 Peter 2:11-12 Beloved, I beg *you* as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, **12** having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by *your* good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Secondly, it may relate to the disposition of patience and kind concern, that is intended to lead the opponent to repentance.

5. Pursue Identification

The pursuit of those qualities of Christian character or sanctified character is not to be done alone or by a select group in the household, but by all who call on the name of the Lord.

The source is a pure transformed, cleansed inner new man. This closing section of Scripture is clearly a call to separate ourselves from all who claim to serve God. We are to separate ourselves from all filthy behavior, so that we may be vessels of honor.