

Personal Growth/Transformation

The Reason for Everything

As a plan of salvation, so a plan of sanctification. God wants to continue to develop the relationship that began with the experience of salvation, the new birth. Paul expresses the priority of this growing relationship in Phil 3:8¹, saying “I consider all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.” Paul valued a growing relationship with God, knowing Christ, to be more important than everything else. This is a reference to God’s plan of sanctification.

Sanctification is a big and seldom used word that simply means to become different. As Jesus was different than the world around Him, so we are to be different, also. Paul would say, “Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed” Rom 12:2. This transformation is God’s plan of sanctification. There are three ways sanctification is used in the New Testament, past, present and future. You were sanctified at salvation. You are being sanctified, daily, and you will be sanctified when you see Him (Hebrews 10:10, 14; 1 Thessalonians 5:23). These refer, respectively, to salvation, daily transformation and future change to be fully like Christ, on entrance into His presence. It is the daily ongoing process that we are concerned with here. This daily sanctification or transformation or growth is a normal part of life that affects everything. It is the reason for everything God is doing in our lives. It is the goal of all Biblical teaching and activity (Phil 3:12-14; 1 Tim 1:5; 1 Cor 9:23). It is the reason God is at work for good in all things to carry out His purpose of conforming us, not to this world, but to Christ (Rom 8:28-29). This transformation into Christ likeness answers all the questions we have about life and its sovereignly controlled events. It is God’s top priority for us. It is for what we are to live (Col 1:28-29).

The process of transformation consists of five simple dynamics. These five dynamics are the reason spiritual disciplines are so important. The disciplines arise from these five simple dynamics. God’s word, faith and the Holy Spirit work together (1 Pet 2:2; Heb 4:2-3a; 2 Cor 3:18) to generate new life in us, the very life qualities of Jesus Christ Himself (2 Pet 1:4, the divine nature). Then obedience and suffering keep the gears lubricated so the process continues (Phil 1:22, 3:8; Rom 1:5; 2 Cor 1:8-9, 4:8-12). These five dynamics operate with the “death and life” cycle of 2 Cor 4:7-12, esp 10-11, to “form Christ in you,” Gal 4:19. This is God’s plan for growth, for sanctification. It is God’s top priority for us.

Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. 2 Peter 3:18

¹ All references from NASB95, [New American Standard Bible: 1995 Update](#) (La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).