



TRANSFORMATIONS

SANCTIFICATION & THE CRISIS 1 CORINTHIANS 1:30

Community Group Discussion Guide

We are like a clay vessel made by our Father, the potter. Isaiah 64:8 says “But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.” 2 Timothy 2:21 says “Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.” A clay vessel cannot fill itself up with water. A clay vessel cannot carry a heavy load on its own. Instead, a clay vessel does the work of its master's will. We are broken and cracked vessels. But God picks up our pieces; the Holy Spirit fills us up; and through Jesus's death and resurrection, we are redeemed.

CONVERSATION STARTER

Sanctification is a long word. It is 5 syllables! What is the longest word that you can think of? Sanctification is also a challenging concept to understand. What are some things that you've struggled to comprehend?

GETTING INTO THE SCRIPTURES: READ JOHN 15: 26,27 & 16:8-15

- Have folks in your group take turns reading the following verses: 1 Corinthians 1:30, 1 Peter 1:15-16, Romans 5:1, 1 Thessalonians 5:23, 2 Corinthians 3:18
- Part of the Christian and Missionary Alliance's Statement of Faith says: It is the will of God that each believer should be filled with the Holy Spirit and be sanctified wholly, being separated FROM sin and the world and fully dedicated TO the will of God, thereby receiving power for holy living and effective service. This is both a crisis and a progressive experience wrought in the life of the believer subsequent to conversion. What does this mean to you?
- Sanctification means we are saved FROM sin and saved TO God. If we understand or appreciate just one aspect of that, we do not fully experience sanctification. Which part is harder to appreciate? Being saved FROM sin or being saved TO God?
- The first stage of sanctification is that we have been saved. When does this first stage of sanctification occur? What sacrifice allows this sanctification process to happen? Are we able to sanctify ourselves?
- The second stage of sanctification is that we are being saved. This is an ongoing and continuous process. We can engage in sanctification through surrender, acceptance, and abiding in the Word of God. What does each of these ways of engaging in sanctification look like in our lives?



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Which is easy? Which is hard? If you need additional verses on these topics, read Romans 6:11, Galatians 2:20, and John 15:4.

- The third stage of sanctification is that we will be saved. What future event is this third stage of sanctification?
- We also talked about the crisis experience on Sunday. The term crisis here simply refers to a beginning point where we recognize our complete need for Jesus. Spend some time sharing crisis experiences with your group. How did God use this experience to save you FROM sin and TO God?

MAKING IT REAL

Sanctification is an ongoing, continuous process. Most of us are in the second stage, where we have the opportunity to engage in the sanctification process. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to engage in sanctification?