



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – May 4, 2025

Heart to Heart...

What are you pursuing in your life? ***"Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord."*** (Hebrews 12:14) Peace must be pursued along with sanctification. I want to focus on the sanctification. This is extremely serious as without this, you won't see the Lord. It tells us we are not okay to come to God and walk with Him the way we are. There needs to be changes within our lives. Holiness is an attribute of God. That is what sanctification means. It is separating ourselves from what we were into what He is. God is holy and expects us to pursue His holiness. His holiness is pursued by separating ourselves from what we use to pursue and practice. You were baptized into Christ and because of your forgiveness, you were sanctified (set apart to God) through the offering of the body of Jesus (Hebrews 10:10). Each one of us in Jesus have been sanctified. (I Corinthians 1:2). That means we are holy to God. This is how God views us now in Christ. We are to reflect His holiness in our lives. ***"But like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior."*** (I Peter 1:15) We need to pursue His holiness which means our old, natural self was crucified with Christ, buried and we were raised in newness of life to be able to pursue the sanctification which we have been brought into.

Sanctification is an on-going process, something we continually pursue and grow toward. It's not a one-time thing but continues all our lives. You have to be putting away the things that aren't God-like in our lives. When people start making excuses for continually living the way they want, what they "feel" is right, the pursuit of holiness will stop which leads us down the wrong road and you won't ever see the Lord. ***"But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification and the outcome, eternal life."*** (Romans 6:22) Being enslaved to God is very beneficial as it brought about our sanctification. Our slavery to sin brought us condemnation but we changed masters upon entering Christ and that change resulted in sanctification. We need to pursue that sanctification in our daily life. To not pursue the sanctification, you will destroy the work of Christ, and we will not see the Lord. Sometimes it seems that brethren fight to stay in their old, sinful ways, not concerned about what pleases the Lord and drawing closer to His holiness. Instead of moving away from the things in our former life, we seem to live in them as if nothing happened. That's not pursuing the sanctification. God is holy and through the blood of Christ we have been made

holy. Let's not go backward into our former desires and way of living and thinking. Let's move deeper into the sanctifying work of the Lord by being more holy in our behavior. With that, we can guarantee that we will see the Lord and we have Christ's sanctifying work on our behalf as that guarantee. Think about it!!!

- Brent