



Participant Handout for ***Sanctified Living: More than Grace and Forgiveness*** By Frank G. Honeycutt

Opening Prayer

God our creator, we thank you for the life of each person in this room. We thank you for blessing us with unique personalities and gifts. Open our eyes today, so we can begin to see how your Holy Spirit can work in our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Points to Ponder

1. Would you *want* to be exactly the same today as you were 20 years ago? Why or why not?
2. Do people “grow up” spiritually as well as in other ways? What does spiritual growth mean to you? Is it a good thing? Is it important?
3. Today's topic is about being *sanctified*—being made holy as we grow in faith. Sanctifying isn't something we do because we're so good; it's something God does because God is so good. Is *sanctified* a word you're used to hearing? Is this the meaning you usually associate with this word?

Baptism: Dying and Rising with Christ

4. When someone is baptized, what do you think is happening? Look up the following verses for more insights into the meaning of baptism:
 - a. Romans 6:4
 - b. Philemon 3:10
 - c. Colossians 2:12
 - d. Colossians 3:2–3
 - e. Galatians 2:19–20
5. What differences would you expect to discover between the “old creature” who dies with Christ in baptism and the “new person” who rises with Christ? For example, do you (will you) have different priorities? Different hopes and fears? Different abilities? Do those differences happen all at once, or do you expect to see changes more gradually?
6. Honeycutt says, “This is the Holy Spirit's intent in sanctification: not to create some super-Christian but rather to transform in a person what God has already created” (pp. 18–19). Does this transformation sound inviting to you—or frightening?

Jesus: Learning, Too?

7. Christianity teaches that Jesus was fully God *and* fully human. Pastor Honeycutt concludes that being fully human means Jesus didn't arrive in Mary's arms with complete spiritual maturity and wisdom. Rather, from experiences and teachers, he had to learn about God and God's will. Do you agree? Why or why not?
8. Read Hebrews 5:7-9. What does verse 8 tell us about Jesus? Can you think of other situations in which Jesus might have learned something?
9. Comment on this statement: “If Jesus was on a learning curve following his own baptism, how much more are his followers? God is never through with any of us” (p. 27). How would you describe this statement? (Choose one or more.)
 - a. A requirement (If you get baptized, you have to act holy.)
 - b. The natural way of things (God made us as creatures that grow and mature.)
 - c. An opportunity (God promises to free us from sin and transform us.)

Healthy Habits, Spiritually Speaking

10. What are some healthy habits that enable a child to mature fully? What are some healthy habits that help a grown person continue living a full life?
11. Read John 6:25-27. This conversation takes place on the day after the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand, which had thrilled the people. In verse 26, what does Jesus say was the reason the people want to be with him? Nowadays, what are some reasons why people join churches and get baptized? On most days, are you motivated more by what you can get from God or by the “job offer” to “work . . . for the food that endures for eternal life” (verse 27)?
12. Does “work for food” sound more like an opportunity or a burden? Would your answer depend on whether you already have a job and enough food?
13. What is worth working for?
 - a. Getting better at running, racquetball, or golf
 - b. Getting a diploma, college degree, or better job
 - c. Saving for a house or retirement
 - d. Ending hunger or violence
 - e. Learning to trust and love God
14. Do we have to earn a place in heaven? If not, what is the point of putting effort into spiritual maturity? Who benefits? For some ideas, read Ephesians 4:11-16.

Being Saved

15. Read Psalm 23:6. The Hebrew word translated as *follow* is a strong word meaning to pursue, like the pursuit in a movie’s chase scene. Have you ever felt pursued by God? If God catches you, what might happen?
16. Comment on these words by Pastor Honeycutt: “God is tailing us God catches us at the sea (font) and drowns sin and pride in the water. . . . God is not through with us. Salvation is always a process initiated, planned, and relentlessly pursued by the Holy Spirit” (p. 43). As God does this, we are “being saved”—an ongoing process. How does this description compare with your understanding of being saved?

Closing Prayer

Gracious God, we thank you for loving us enough to pursue us. When you catch us, open our hearts to be transformed by you. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Source: Frank G. Honeycutt, *Sanctified Living: More than Grace and Forgiveness* (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2008).