

FINDING AND DOING GOD'S WILL {PART 2}

SANCTIFICATION {1 Thessl. 5}

**"God's will for you is your sanctification.
Abstain from sexual immorality."**

When we find God's salvation "will" and go to the Bible to see what His will is, the first thing we find is that He wants us *to grow* into better, stronger and loving people - what the Bible calls being "holy" or "sanctified". Paul started here with sexual immorality. We grow adding one virtue and removing one sin at a time. Colossians 3:5-14 gives a list of things to remove and add. It says, "Get rid of anger / and clothe yourselves with gentleness."

A lady watched a sculptor carving a lion out of stone and said, "I wish I could do that." The sculptor said, "It is easy. Just take out everything that doesn't look like a lion." One day at a time we are to try and remove anything in us that does not look like Jesus.

SERVICE

In the Community "Let your light shine before people so they can see your good works, and honor your heavenly Father." (Matt. 5)

A Bishop visited a poor Catholic church surrounded by people in deep poverty. In the church windows he found 12 golden statues of the Apostles. He said, "Take those out, melt them down, sell them and use the money to help these poor people."

God want us to be good FOR SOMETHING." If we are not doing good for others, in God's sight, we are GOOD FOR NOTHING. (Really, we are not "good".) In Luke ten Jesus said all the Bible's commands are summed up in the word "love" and used the story of the Good Samaritan to illustrate it. Christian love is

spelled "h-e-l-p". He also said treating others the way we want to be treated (Matt. 7) sums us the Bible's commands. We will meet OUR needs. If we are hungry, we will find us some food. Christian love means if someone else is hungry, we will find food for them.

In the Church Jesus tells us in Matthew 28, to "go into all the world, make people His followers and teach them His will." (Matt. 28:18-20) Every human being on earth needs our help and is our responsibility. We cannot do this as individual Christians. A task like this must have some kind of organization. Jesus' organization is his "church" (congregations).

American Christianity, lives by the American motto, "What is in it for me?" More and more people today talk about loving Christ and when you ask them where they go to church, they say they don't go. We need to say, "I didn't know we had a choice. The first thing Jesus asks us to do is be baptized and only a church can baptize. And the church to needs workers to baptize others all over the world."

Claiming to be a Christian without supporting the ministry of a church is like a student sitting in the stands at a ball game telling people he is on the team that is playing. A man lost his hearing and kept walking to church, rain or shine. When asked why he still went he said, "I want people to know whose side I am on." Jesus said, "If you love me, you will do what I command." (John 14:15) Not supporting Jesus' congregations, is like this:

Mommy, I love you said little Nell
I love you more than tongue can tell
And out the garden gate she flew
Leaving mommy all the work to do