

Faith Christian Fellowship
Sunday, January 28, 2018
R U Sanctified or Sanctimonious?
2: Do You Pray to Yourself?

TEXT: Luke 18:9-14 / 2 Corinthians 7:1

Religion is a man-made form of attempting to please God through a series of rituals and good works. When we study the subject of sanctification, holiness, purity, etc. we tend to look for law, not relationships. We become Pharisees, ignoring our own fallibility and denying the value of other people. Before we go further in our discussion of personal purity, let's take the vaccination against pharisaism.

Sanctified: set apart to a sacred purpose or to religious use; consecrated; freed from sin; purified.

Sanctimonious: making a hypocritical show of religious devotion, piety, righteousness, etc.:

Which are you? Today: Do all your prayers begin with "I."

- ◆ Who do you trust?
 - ♥ The point in Luke 18:9. "Who do you trust, and who do you despise?"
 - ♥ Good works do not justify, and it never has: Only through faith in Jesus Christ that are we declared "Not Guilty." Romans 3:20
 - ♥ When the Pharisee prayed, he prayed "with himself." Literally toward himself. Access to God is through the work of Jesus alone. You can't offer your works and get in Ephesians 3:12
- ◆ The "I's" have it
 - ♥ "I thank you that I am not like other men" 2 I's
 - ⇒ The Jews felt they were separated by God in a pre-ordained fashion. The Pharisees thought themselves special because they observed the Law. Jesus thought otherwise: Lk 12:1 the leaven of the Pharisees: hypocrisy. Note Matt 23
 - ⇒ An attitude toward others that ignores our own fallibility is simply preparation for a crash: Gal 6:1 / Prov 16:18
 - ⇒ Every part of the body is important: Note 1 Corinthians 12:22
 - ♥ "I fast twice in the week." One I done twice
 - ⇒ God is unimpressed with your hunger, not moved by what you gave up to become a Christian. Jesus gave much more. Bragging about what you have given up is still bragging.

- ⇒ Punishing yourself with self-imposed penance (including self-condemnation) is useless and keeps you crippled in your faith. Receive your forgiveness and go on! 1 John 1:9
- ⇒ Phil 3:3-4, 8-9. Philippians 3:8 NLT Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ

- ♥ "I give tithes of all that I possess" 2 I's
 - ⇒ He saw giving as works, not obedience. It was a sacrifice, not a joy. 2 Corinthians 9:7
 - ⇒ He thinks he possesses his stuff. God has purchased you and all your stuff with the blood of Jesus. 1 Cor 6:19-20 / 1 Chron 29:14 / 2 Cor 5:15
 - ⇒ 1 Corinthians 4:7 GW What do you have that wasn't given to you?
 - ⇒ Here's the big danger: If my achievements qualify me for God's blessing, then my failures disqualify me.

- ◆ Be merciful to me, Oh Lord!
 - ♥ If He responds to my works, then His glory is shared with me.
 - ♥ If you have not submitted yourself to the Lordship of Christ, you are a sinner: Romans 3:23 / 10:9
 - ♥ When we come in complete deflation to the Lord, we are actively changed into righteous creatures. 2 Corinthians 5:21
 - ♥ We maintain an awareness that all we have and all we are is the work of God, not us. Philippians 3:12
 - ♥ Luke 18:14. The path to exaltation is the path of humility
 - ⇒ Don't push yourself to the forefront. Luke 14:11
 - ⇒ Live in childlike dependence on One more wise and powerful Matthew 18:4
 - ⇒ James 4:5-10. His grace gives power to overcome the enemy and brings the promise of being elevated
 - ♥ 1 Peter 5:5-7. The humility path to greatness
 - ⇒ Humility submits to authority
 - ⇒ Treats others with respect
 - ⇒ Trust's God to take care of him.

"I am the vine. You are the branches.
Those who live in me while I live in them will produce a lot of fruit.
But you can't produce anything without me. "
John 15:5 GW