

# THE IMPORTANCE OF SOUND DOCTRINE

## PART 2: SANCTIFICATION

**Text:** Titus 1:4-16, 2:1-10

Paul left Titus in Crete and wrote him this epistle specifically because the church was not yet organized there and they had problems that needed addressing. They needed elders and pastors to feed these people and to preach sound doctrine to them so they would come out of the culture that didn't have a good reputation. Paul said that a prophet of their own said that the Cretians were liars, evil beasts, and slow bellies (lazy gluttons). Paul instructed Titus to rebuke them sharply because these things shouldn't be so among God's people. **Titus 1:16** They profess that they know God; but in works they deny *him*, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

Last week I preached about the importance of sound doctrine as it relates to salvation.

Today I want to preach on the importance of sound doctrine in sanctification.

Sanctification means the act of making holy or consecrating for a sacred purpose. After people experience salvation (regeneration of the spirit), next comes sanctification.

Everywhere in scripture, salvation of the soul is always spoken of in the present tense. Your soul is your mind, will and emotions and sanctification is the process by which the soul is delivered from ungodliness and selfishness by the grace and the Spirit of God.

Sanctification is a gradual but continual process that never stops until you get a glorified body. The Holy Spirit goes to work on you with the aid of the word of God and conforms you more and more into the image of Christ. Sanctification also requires your assistance; you must hear the word and be obedient to it. You must submit to the working of the Holy Spirit in your life.

It's vitally important that people know what God expects of them after they are saved.

Sanctification deals with both our character and our conduct:

- **Sober-minded:** Maintaining spiritual and mental clarity and alertness rather than being intoxicated by alcohol, drugs, emotions or worldly distractions. It implies a disciplined, balanced, and watchful mindset free from irrationality and influence from worldly temptations
- **Grave:** Having a serious, dignified, and honorable character. Carrying yourself in a way that commands respect from others

- **Temperate:** Having self-control, moderate in the indulgences of appetites, passions and pleasures. Nothing has a hold on you that shouldn't
- **Sound in faith, charity, and patience:** Putting into practice what the Lord commands. That we have biblical faith in God and his word, that we have biblical love to others that can be seen and that we are long-suffering.

**To the women:**

- **Not false accusers:** Not given to malicious gossip and passing information that isn't true as though it was
- **Not given to much wine:** Not luses
- **Teachers of good things:** That the elder women teach the younger how to love their husbands, children, how to keep a home and be obedient to their own husbands

**To young men:**

- **A pattern of good works in all things:** That your Christian life can be seen and not just heard.
- **Sound speech that cannot be condemned:** Your talk should match your profession so that no one can condemn you.

**To servants:**

- **Obey your masters:** the doctrine of God that is to be adorned is submission to authority. He wants them to obey their masters in honesty without theft.

**Sanctification in our conduct: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12**

- **Purity:** be free from sexual immorality, not controlled by fleshly lusts and desires
- **Honesty:** live with integrity, be honest in all your dealings
- **Brotherly love:** is a deep and sacrificial affection believers in Christ are to show one another, mirroring Christ's love. It goes beyond emotion and requires action
- **Keep your mind on your own affairs:** not be busybodies, gossips, talebearers or false accusers