

## **“He Will Surely Do It”**

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

### **INTRODUCTION**

**1. This is a benediction.** Lit. ‘a good word’

**2. The general theme is sanctification.**

- ...the work of God’s free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness. (*Westminster Shorter Catechism*)
- Sanctification is a dual process: both dying to sin and living a new life of obedience.
- Sanctification is a dual work: both us and God. Ref. Phil. 2:12-13

**3. This speaks to an issue of debate in the church today specifically regarding sexual orientation.**

Today’s message: Basic outline is from David Strain at Gospel Reformation Network Conference 6 weeks ago

### **The Source of Sanctification. v.23a**

**1. Biblical regeneration means God himself is at work within the believer. 3:11-13; 4:3-5**

- Biblical faith includes God Himself living inside and working inside a believer to change and grow him.

**2. It is the God of peace who does this work.**

- The God of peace is making peace in me, through my sanctification.
- The Bible says we are naturally at war with God (& at peace with God’s enemies). Rom 5: enemies, enmity
- When we are converted, these relationships switch.
- The God of peace himself is waging holy war against every last bastion of remaining sin.

### **The Scope of Sanctification. v.23b**

**1. The believer’s complete and whole sanctification.**

- Does not mean complete ‘perfection’ or sinlessness. Ref. 1 John 1:8
- Gk. ‘complete’ means a totality in which no part is excluded; ‘whole’ means an integrity in each part.

**2. God’s sanctification reaches and affects every part of the believer.**

- No part of the believer is off limits to God and no part is outside of His sanctifying reach.

**3. This speaks directly to the issue of sexual orientation, sexual identity, and sexual sin.**

- Some teach that homosexuals cannot change. This is not in accordance with the Bible. 1 Cor. 6:9-11.

### **The Summons to Sanctification. v.24a**

**1. God has a calling on the believer’s life.**

- God saved you, made you His child.... Now you belong to Him as your King and your Father.
- 1 Corinthians 6:19-20: <sup>19</sup>Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, <sup>20</sup>for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.
- 1 Corinthians 7:23: You were bought with a price; do not become slaves to men.

**2. In the Bible is a call to both holiness and relationship (not one or the other).** Ref. 1 Thes 2:12; 4:7

- Holiness is the commandment of Abba Father.

### **The Certainty of Sanctification. v.24b**

**1. God is faithful.**

- It is His character to be faithful. Covenantal.

**2. God’s faithfulness has a bearing on your sanctification.** Ref. Phil. 1:6

→ There is no sin, error, unbelief, perversion, or habit that can ever make God withdraw from His commitment to sanctify you completely.

# Thoughts from Fellow Saints...

Abraham Kuyper: "There's not a square inch in the whole domain of human existence over which Christ, who is Lord over all, does not exclaim, 'Mine!'"

1 Corinthians 6:9-11: <sup>9</sup>Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, <sup>10</sup>nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup>And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

"The goal of the Gospel is not to affirm you, celebrate you, and accept you. The goal of the Gospel is to rescue you, transform you, and redirect you." -Pastor Shane Pruitt (in TX)

Excerpts from *The New Reformation Catechism on Human Sexuality*:1

## **1.Q. Why is it comforting that we have a new identity in Jesus Christ?**

- A. I am being remade into the image of Christ, to have a true identity—in body and soul, throughout the whole course of my life, to enjoy God and glorify Him forever.

He redeemed my life with the precious blood of his Son, and has delivered me from the lie of Satan in the Garden.

He also watches over me in such a way that he might free me from all sexual impurity as the temple of his indwelling; in fact, all things must work together to remake me into the image of his Son.

Because I have this new identity, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, also assures me of God's steadfast love, and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to enjoy true freedom as a new creation.

## **2. Q. What must I know about human sexuality and my new identity in Christ?**

- A. Three things: first, how great my unholy desires and sexual sins are; second, how I am set free from bondage to my unholy desires and sexual sins; third, how I am to lead a thankful life of sexual purity in union with Christ.

## **10. Q. What is marriage?**

- A. God created marriage to be a lifelong, monogamous covenantal union between one man and one woman.

## **15. Q. Does God permit same-sex marriage?**

- A. Absolutely not.  
God ordained marriage only between a man and a woman for life.

Governments do not have the authority to change marriage into something contrary to what God instituted at creation.