



Being Separate from the World

Dear brothers and sisters, when I was with you I couldn't talk to you as I would to mature Christians. I had to talk as though you belonged to this world or as though you were infants in the Christian life.... for you are still controlled by your own sinful desires. You are jealous of one another and quarrel with each other. Doesn't that prove you are controlled by your own desires? You are acting like people who don't belong to the Lord.

1 Corinthians 3:1,3 (NLT)

Prayer Focus: It seems Paul was being very direct and hard with his rebuke to believers in the Corinthian church. He said they were acting like babies and not like people who belonged to Jesus Christ. They were really not much different from the world, even though they had been called to be set apart in Christ. It was a much-needed correction. Paul would certainly have the right to issue the same rebuke to many in the Church today. Multiple surveys and research tell us that when it comes to our attitudes and lifestyles, those who profess to be Christians differ little from those who do not claim the name of Jesus Christ. This is not what we should expect if we are living in the truth of Jesus Christ as our Sanctifier—as our very life, strength, and wisdom. In fact, we should be broken and appalled over it! The envy, strife, and divisions that Paul mentions are only a few of the tell-tale signs that the Church is sick

Day 1: Worship the Lord for His perfect holiness.

Day 2: Confess to the Lord the ways you have become like the world in your life and heart

Day 3: Repent for yourself and on behalf of the Church for not looking dramatically different from the world.

Day 4: Invite the Lord to stir a passion within you to live your life radically different from worldly influences.

Day 5: Pray that your church will be open to see the ways that it is immature and worldly.

Day 6: Pray that leadership in your church will invite the presence of Christ to cleanse any worldly influence.

Day 7: Pray that the name of Jesus Christ will be honored in your life and through the Church.

Taken from the book "Come, Lord Jesus: transformation prayer guide"

Published by Prayer Transformation Ministry, Minneapolis

Jesus Christ as Our Sanctifier

Jesus Christ is our life! Jesus is more than just our Saviour from our sins of the past. Paul states in 1 Corinthians 1:30 that we are *in Christ*. In Colossians 1:27, Paul says that Christ lives in us! Jesus Christ did not die on the cross for our sins, then go back to the Father and leave us to fend for ourselves in this life. He is our new life.

Perhaps one of the reasons that Christians flounder so much in their walk is the lack of understanding of this key teaching of Scripture. The word “sanctification” has the idea of being set apart *from* something and *to* something else. This means that we are set apart from the life and ways of the world around us and set apart to God.

But this is not something we strive for; it is something we obtain through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul teaches in Colossians 2:6 that we are to live by the same kind of faith as when we received Christ Jesus as Saviour. Jesus used the illustration in John 15 of the vine and the branches. The branch does not produce fruit by straining and striving, but by allowing the life of the vine to flow through it. The life that is in the vine produces life in the branch. Jesus is the vine, and we are the branches.

Jesus Christ as our sanctification means that He lives His life out through us. It is not about our attempts to attain perfection; it is our old life exchanged for His life in us. In humility and obedience, we must surrender our lives to His control. When Jesus Christ is living His life through us, we will exhibit His very own characteristics—the greatest of which is supreme love for God and for others.

What an amazing and wonderful truth for us to understand and take for our own! Jesus Christ is not only our Savior from sin, He is our very breath of life. He will breathe through you as you yield your thoughts, hopes, and plans to Him. Paul’s classic words in Galatians 2:20 give us the model for such a life:

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

As you pray through this section on Jesus Christ as our Sanctifier, allow the Holy Spirit to probe deep into your heart and bring you to a greater understanding of the wonderful truth of your union with your Saviour. This is a glorious reality to be lived out in your life daily.

Transformation: Jesus in Our Midst

As we pray about transformation; we need a common definition of what a truly transformed community might look like:

A transformed community is:

- A neighbourhood, city, or nation whose values and institutions have been overrun by the grace and presence of God.
- A place where divine fire has not merely been summoned, but has fallen.
- A society in which natural change has been disrupted by invasive supernatural power.
- A culture that has been impacted comprehensively and undeniably by the Kingdom of God.
- A location where Kingdom values are celebrated publicly and passed on to future generations.

Community transformation is indicated when:

- Political leaders publicly acknowledge their sin and dependence on God. (2 Kings 11:17-18; 23:1-3; Jonah 3:6-9).
- New laws, curricula, and business practices are put into effect (2 Chronicles 19:4-10; Nehemiah 10:31).
- The natural environment is restored to its original life-nurturing state (Leviticus 26:4-5; 2 Chronicles 7:14; Ezekiel 34:27-31).
- Economic conditions improve and lead to a discernible lessening of poverty. (2 Chronicles 17:3-5; Psalm 144:13-14; Isaiah 60:5-7; Amos 9:13).
- There is a marked change in social entertainment and vices as Kingdom values are integrated into the rhythm of daily life (Ezra 10:1-4; Nehemiah 8:10, 16-17; Acts 19:17-20).
- Crime and corruption diminish throughout the community
- (2 Kings 12:13-15; Nehemiah 5:6-12; Isaiah 60:17-18).
- Volunteerism increases as Christians recognize their responsibility to heal and undergird the community (Isaiah 58:10-12; 61:1-4).
- Restored hope and joy leads to a decline in divorce, bankruptcy, and suicide (Nehemiah 12:27-28, 43; Isaiah 54:11-14; 61:3-7; Jeremiah 30:17-19; 31:11-13; Hosea 2:15).
- The spiritual nature of the growing socio-political renewal becomes a hot topic in secular media (2 Chronicles 20:29; Nehemiah 6:16; Isaiah 55:5; Ezekiel 36:36; Acts 19:17).
- Overwhelmed by the goodness of God, grateful Christians take the embers of revival into surrounding communities and nations (2 Chronicles 17:9; Isaiah 61:6; Acts 11:20-26).

(Source: The Sentinel Group)

About Prayer Transformation Ministries

This prayer guide is written and published by Prayer Transformation Ministries, a ministry located in Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN. Since 1993, Prayer Transformation Ministries (PTM) has worked with the prayer movement in the Twin Cities, the state of Minnesota, and the nation.

Prayer Transformation Ministries *provides Christ-centered awareness, training, and equipping for personal and societal transformation.*

About the Authors:

Steve Loopstra is the executive director of Prayer Transformation Ministries. He is also a member of the National Prayer Committee and serves on the Board of the National Church Prayer Leaders Network.

Steve's heart for prayer was demonstrated during his 20 years of pastoring prior to joining the PTM staff. He is a great encourager of pastors to develop "cultures of prayer" in their congregations. Steve also teaches and writes on prayer for revival and transformation. He and his wife Marilou have two children.

Carol Madison is the associate director of Prayer Transformation Ministries. She served in Christian publishing for 17 years before joining the PTM staff. Her experiences include editing a denominational magazine and creating a unique magazine designed to reach the unchurched. Carol writes and speaks on a variety of prayer topics, including the hope for revival and transformation. Her heart is to encourage believers to contend in prayer for their communities. She is a member of the National Prayer Committee.

Prayer Transformation Ministries serves by:

- Teaching/writing on principles of revival and transformation.
- Encouraging local churches to develop "cultures of prayer."
- Publishing prayer guides devoted to united prayer.
- Networking intercessors and prayer movements.
- Giving leadership to citywide catalytic prayer events.
- Producing *Call to Prayer* radio spots.
- Encouraging a children's prayer movement.
- Training and networking local church prayer leaders.

Website: www.prayertransformation.com