

## Sermon Answer Guide – 9.19.21 – Blessed Sermon #2: John 13:12-17

### Section One – Blessed

#### I. The Blessing We Pursue

A. T or F Being blessed means being empowered by God to do what we are designed to do.

**TRUE**

B. Use the following words to complete below: - Jesus - Christlikeness - broken  
blessed- example

1. The blessing we pursue is **Christlikeness**\_\_.
2. \_\_ **Jesus** is the most blessed man born of woman.
3. Jesus was asked in Mark 14:61 if He was the Son of the **Blessed** \_\_.
4. Jesus said in John 13 that He gave us an **Example** \_\_ to imitate.
5. We are **broken** \_\_ receptacles of God's blessings.

C. What does the Mark 8:22-25 passage teach us about our pursuit of blessings? **When Jesus laid His hands on the blind man's eyes the first time the man saw, but not clearly. After Jesus laid His hands on the blind man's eyes again, he saw clearly. This teaches us that being blessed by God has a beginning point (justification) but then begins a process (sanctification).**

D. Why is the process of sanctification helpful in understanding how God blesses us? **Sanctification is a process we experience and is directly related to the Holy Spirit's empowerment to be more like Jesus in our earthly life in who we are and how we interact with those we come in contact with.**

#### II. The Blessing's Blueprint

A. Read Luke 11:27-28 and Colossians 3:5-10 - Pick the true statement(s) and discuss.

1. God blesses all those who participate in His redemption activities.
2. God blesses all those who hear His Word.
3. God's blesses those who obey the Word of God. **True**
4. God's blessings are hindered by the old self's actions and practices. **True**
5. God's blessings come by doing what comes naturally to us.

B. Read Galatians 3:2-3 and Philippians 2:12-13. What do these two passages have to say about how we become more like Jesus? How have you experienced this reality in your own life of faith? We must be led by the Spirit of God if we are to become more like Jesus. We cannot pursue Jesus in our own natural abilities. We must, with the Spirit's help, stop doing what comes natural to us. If we try to obey in our flesh, we will be working out our own salvation versus walking by faith in Jesus Christ and his death for our salvation. Hopefully every Christian can testify that they experience the power of God as they live out their faith.

### III. Thinking about a Blessing Outcome

A. Read Matthew 28:17-20 and answer the following:

1. Is there a difference between being a disciple and a believer? Explain your answer. Yes. Becoming a believer is the beginning of being a disciple. One cannot be a disciple without first believing. The question then is can a true believer not be a disciple? The scriptures answer this question in the negative. Believing the gospel requires one to study the scriptures in order to learn and obey them.

2. Is the responsibility of discipling primarily the leaders of the church? Explain. This is a complicated question. It is a primary responsibility of a spiritual leader to teach and encourage believers to obey the scriptures and be led by the Holy Spirit. However, all believers can encourage each other to study and obey the Word of God, which is an essential part of discipling others.

3. Can I be a good disciple and not disciple? Explain your answer. No. Jesus commanded us to make disciples. We must obey Jesus to receive His blessings.

4. What is involved with discipling others? Becoming more like Jesus ourselves and teaching and encouraging others to obey the Word of God. The command to go make disciples in Matthew 28 can be more accurately translated from the original language "As you go make disciples..." This implies that this is a daily, even moment by moment experience. So, the way we live is meant to impact others lives, and we must always be ready to teach and challenge our family, neighbors, and even strangers we meet along the way to follow Jesus.

## Section Two – Going Deeper

### Apologetics: The Whole Counsel of God (Acts 20:27)

What is our “blueprint” for becoming more like Christ? Are there things that should be emphasized more than others? Should we worry about trying to change ourselves or others, or just keep chasing JESUS and trust the process?

Of course most everyone would answer the “blueprint” is the Bible, and the Spirit of God working within us. But what if I told you the last question is from someone who said that they became a Christian and God led them to understand that they were gay? What would be your reaction? (Remember that Chris emphasized that your answer must be with gentleness and respect. (1 Peter 3:15))

At Cornerstone, we take for granted a high view of Scripture, i.e., we trust the entire Bible as the Word of God. Sometimes that is referred to as a “high view” of Scripture. (Ask yourself why that is, but that is for another time). But there are movements today (indeed, movements that have been around since when the Bible was written), that take a somewhat “lower” view of the Bible for their “blueprint”. It’s called Progressive Christianity. And in the end, probably has less to do with Christianity, and more to do with the “process”.

Progressive Christianity is a recent movement in Protestantism that focuses strongly on social justice and environmentalism and often includes a revisionist (or non-traditional) view of the Scriptures. Since the movement entails a number of different beliefs and views on various topics, it is difficult to label the whole movement decisively as “biblical” or “unbiblical.” Each claim and belief of any movement should be filtered through the Word of God, and whatever does not line up with Scripture should be rejected.

For more: <https://www.gotquestions.org/Progressive-Christianity.html>

Besides just saying the Bible is our “blueprint”, what other practical things can we do?

God alone is our resource, and all growth comes by grace through Him, but we are responsible to make the choice to obey. Peter helps us with this list: “For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:5–8). Being effective and fruitful in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus is the essence of spiritual maturity.

For more: <https://www.gotquestions.org/spiritual-maturity.html>

## **Doctrine - Westminster Larger Catechism**

### **Q. 75. What is sanctification?**

A. Sanctification is a work of God's grace, whereby they whom God hath, before the foundation of the world, chosen to be holy, are in time, through the powerful operation of his Spirit applying the death and resurrection of Christ unto them, renewed in their whole man after the image of God; having the seeds of repentance unto life, and all other saving graces, put into their hearts, and those graces so stirred up, increased, and strengthened, as that they more and more die unto sin, and rise unto newness of life.

How is this sanctification discussed above and active and experiential part of life and not a passive reception of God's grace? **The key to the confession answer lies in our experience of dying to sin and rising to newness of life. The work is done by the Spirit in applying God's grace to us, but it reveals itself in the true and real life whereby our sin becomes less and the fruit of our salvation becomes more and more.**