

welcome to the
fruit factory
What fruit is your life producing?



Pastor Hugh's Message Series Sundays 9am & 10:30am

The Fruit of Sanctification (Rom 6:22)

February 9, 2025

Rom 6:22 (CSB)

²² But now, since you have been set free from sin and have become enslaved to God, you have your fruit, which results in sanctification—and the outcome is eternal life!

- A. Welcome to the Fruit Factory! As I have been sharing each week, as a Church and as Christians we are to be fruit factories for Jesus.

Your life should be producing the fruit of Jesus.
And in fact, the longer you live for Jesus, the more fruit of Jesus you should produce.

- B. Last week we learned that producing fruit requires death; a seed has to die for it to produce a plant that will produce fruit.

And the same is true for producing fruit for God.
The only way you are going to produce fruit for God out of your life, is you have to first DIE!

And that means you have to die to your self.

- Dying to ruling yourself.
- Dying to indulging yourself.
- Dying to your wants & wishes.
- Dying to the world's wants & wishes.

- C. In other words, to produce tons fruit for God out of your life, you must live your life this way, believing:

**MY LIFE DOESN'T MATTER MUCH.
JESUS MATTERS MOST.**

Let me encourage you to lock that word in your memory.
Repeat that word every morning and throughout the day.
"My life doesn't matter much. Jesus matters most."

- D. Well, this morning, we are looking at the kind of fruit God wants to produce out of your life.

How many you had your cup of coffee this morning? Good, because you're going need it.

Because if you snooze, you lose.

And the devil does not want you to learn the powerful truths about this fruit this morning.

- E. What fruit am I talking about? **The fruit of sanctification.**

Now don't let that \$3 word throw you.
Sanctification just simply means "HOLINESS."

- F. If someone were to ask you to name one of the attributes of God, you would probably say, "God is HOLY."

And you would be right.
In fact, God is even described as not just being "holy," but in...

Is. 6:3 – when Isaiah saw the Lord Jesus sitting on the Throne, the angels were declaring,
**"Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts,
The whole earth is full of His glory."**

God is thrice holy; He's infinitely holy.

- G. And when you dive in to define the word "HOLY," you realize that it simply means, **"set apart."**

So, God is "set apart" (infinitely so) from His creation and from all He created...including you and me.

In other words, God ain't like us.
He's completely different than us.
We're in the human kind. He's in a totally different kind.
We're in the human category. He's in a completely different category. In fact, He's in His own category.

And nothing in the entire universe can close to being like God. He's HOLY, HOLY, HOLY – Set apart!

- H. And then we hear a word from the Apostle Paul that God wants us to produce such fruit. What fruit? The fruit of being "SET APART." The fruit of HOLINESS! The fruit of sanctification!

God didn't save you to make you a better you.
God didn't save you to reshape you.
God didn't save you to reform you.
God saved you to transform you.

- I. That means God wants you to live not on a human level, but on a higher level. God wants you to live not in just the human category, but another category.

In fact, can I tell you what fruit God really wants to produce in you and through you?

Are you ready? **HIMSELF**

- J. I talked with someone this weekend who said they wish they knew their purpose in life.

God tells you your purpose in life.

Your purpose is to be like God.

Your purpose is to be God-Like in every way and every day.

- Your purpose is to develop His **CHARACTER** – all His characteristics in your life.
- And your purpose is to develop His **CONDUCT** in every action & attitude of your life.
- And your purpose is to follow His **COMMANDS** in every arena of your life – whatever He says, whenever says, and wherever He says – I obey.

God saved you so you will:

- BELONG to God.
- BELIEVE God.
- BEHAVE like God.
- Bring Glory to God.

That's all part of the fruit of sanctification!

Turn to your neighbor and say:

GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOU IS TO BE SET APART AND BE GOD-LIKE.

- K. Ok, so here's the big question:
Is being set apart and being God-like EASY or HARD?
(Survey: How many say EASY? HARD?)

Why is it so hard?

- Aren't you saved?
- Didn't you accept Jesus as your Savior & Lord?

Then why is being set apart & God-like so hard?

I'll tell you why.

YOU HAVE YET TO LEARN HOW TO WIN OVER SIN.

- L. Don't believe me?

Let's put all you did this past week and all you said on the screen for everyone to see.

How would you like that?

I guarantee you we wouldn't fill the place.

We would empty the place.

People would be running out of here like a roach in a burning motel.

- M. The reason being God-like is so hard is because of sin.
How many of you have found that to be true?

It was true for the apostle Paul – who was the greatest Christian on the planet and the greatest evangelist after Jesus.

Rom. 7:15-17

¹⁵ For I do not understand what I am doing, because I do not practice what I want to do, but I do what I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want to do, I agree with the law that it is good. ¹⁷ So now I am no longer the one doing it, but it is sin living in me.

Paul knew being set apart and being God-like was a struggle because of sin.

N. So, here's the question: **What should we do with sin?**

How many of you are familiar with:

Dennis Swanberg – Dennis is a Christian comedian, and I thought you might enjoy hearing his take on sin.

DENNIS SWANBERG CLIP

- O. God wants you to bear the fruit of sanctification, but you have to know the truth about winning over sin.

So, let me share with you 2 thoughts about how Jesus makes it possible for you to live victorious over sin and live God-like in every way and every day.

Here's the first thought:

1. Jesus Has Made Sin POWERLESS

Rom 6:22 (CSB)

But now, since you have been set free from sin

- A. Now let me ask: How many of you, when you hear news about sin, it's good news? Bad news?

Most likely, 100% of the news you hear about sin is bad news. So, what if the bad news about sin contributes to our bad behaviors?

In other words, one of the reasons we struggle with sin is because we have some bad beliefs about sin.

For example, we say things like this:

- I can't help it. I sin every day.
- I'm just a sinner saved by grace.
- I know we're not supposed to sin, but God forgives.

- B. If you are "in it to win it over sin," then you have to change your thinking about sin.

In fact, I get we need to know the bad news about sin. But God's got some good news about sin.

You say, what's the good news about sin?

The good news is when you got saved,
GOD SET YOU FREE FROM SIN.

v. 22 since you have been set free from sin

C. What does it mean that you have been set free from sin?

You are free from the POWER of Sin

Rom. 6:6-7

⁶ For we know that our old self was crucified with him...

⁷ ...a person who has died is freed from sin.

Who's the "old self"? The old self is me before I got saved. It's my old, rebellious, anti-god, self-seeking, self-serving self that wouldn't submit to God, wouldn't surrender to God, and wouldn't seek after God.

And that old self was Sin-FULL – full of sin and deserving sin's penalty – which is what? DEATH.

D. What does God do with your old, sin-FULL self when you get saved?

- God doesn't change your old self.
- God doesn't reform your old self.
- God doesn't even transform your old self.

Do you know what God did with your old self when you got saved?

He crucified your old self!

Rom. 6:6

For we know that our old self was crucified with him...

E. God put your old self on the cross with Jesus, and God condemned your old self and poured out His wrath on your old self and put your old, sin-FULL self to death.

And so, if you are saved, where's your old sinful self? It's dead.

And last time I checked, you can talk all you want to a dead person, but a dead person won't talk back. Do you know why? They're dead.

F. In fact, how does a dead drunk respond to alcohol? How does a dead drug addict respond to drugs?

So, if your old, sinful self is dead, how does it respond to sin? It can't, because your old self is dead.

Rom. 6:6

⁶ For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be rendered powerless (meaning "inactive" and "disabled")

- G. God is not saying when you get saved, He sets you free from the PRESENCE of sin. That won't take place until you get to Heaven.

You don't become sinless when you get saved.

You are not free FROM sin. You are free OF sin.

But because your old self is dead, it means God has set you free from sin's POWER.

That is, God has broken the power of sin in your life.

- H. In fact, notice what else Paul says:

Rom. 6:6

For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be rendered powerless so that we may no longer be enslaved to sin,

Before you were saved, you were in slavery to sin.

Sin was your Master. Sin was your Dictator.

Sin was King on the throne of your heart.

And sin forced you to rebel against God.

And you had no power to say "no" to sin. And you had no power to say "yes" to God.

- I. But here's the good news.

Your old self died on the cross with Jesus, and when your old self died, God set you free from your Sin Master.

Ex. God took you off one ship with Captain Evil and put you on God's ship with Captain Jesus.

And guess what that means:

- You don't have to listen to that Captain Evil anymore.
- You don't have to obey him anymore.
- You don't have to serve him anymore.
- You don't have to take his junk anymore.

You're on another ship with Captain Jesus.

That old self of yours died with Jesus on the cross and the captain of sin has no power over your life anymore.

You don't have to sin any more.

You don't have to live in defeat any more.

You don't have to go years and years and years committing the same old dumb sins any more...

...UNLESS YOU CHOOSE TO.

The only reason you sin after salvation is because you want to (not because you have to).

And that brings me to this next thought:

2. Jesus is Making You POWERFUL

Rom. 6:22

But now, since you have been set free from sin and have become enslaved to God,

- A. When you get saved, you become enslaved. You get set free from sin, but you become a slave to God.

And this is the place where you discover the secret of living a powerful Christlike life.

What's the secret?

- B. Every Christian will make this statement:

Jesus died on the cross and rose to life.

That's wonderful.

But if you are going to live a powerful Christlike life, you have to say it like this:

With Jesus I died on the cross and rose to life.

- C. The first statement focuses on Jesus' payment for sin. The second statement focuses on the power over sin.

And the power over sin is not just that our old self died with Jesus on the cross, but God did a miracle with your life. He raised you up to a brand NEW LIFE. Not a new and improved version of you, but the LIFE OF JESUS now living in and through you.

Rom. 6:5

For if we have been united with him in the likeness of his death, we will certainly also be in the likeness of his resurrection.

Rom. 6:4b

just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life.

- D. What is this "newness of life"?

It's not just a better life.

It's not even remodeled life.

It's a completely different life.

It's a new kind of life.

A life you've never had.

It's literally the life of Jesus living in you and through you.

- E. And Paul gives us the answer for living a powerful life for God and with God.

Rom. 6:11

So, you too consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

What's the answer?

It's believing & behaving this way every day:

- I'm Dead to sin – Sin has no power over me.
- I'm Alive to God

- F. "Alive to God" = Alive means I'm responding to God.
I'm living my life worshipping God.
I'm living my life working for God.
I'm living my life loving God.
I'm living my life listening to God.
I'm living my life learning about God.
And I'm going to live my life LIKE God.

I'm no longer a slave to sin.

I'm a slave to righteousness.

And as Paul said,

Rom. 6:13

offer yourselves to God, and all the parts of yourselves to God as tools for righteousness.

- G. God, these are not my hands. They're your hands.
God, these are not my feet. They're your feet.
God, these are not my eyes. They are your eyes.
God, this is not my tongue. It's your tongue.
God, this is not my mind. It's your mind.

Use them to do what is right in your sight.

Use them that people might know what You say is right.

- H. My goal in life is not for people to see me.
But for people to see God in me.
For people to hear God from me.
For people to love God because of me.

And as I consider myself dead to sin and alive to God, I know 100% for sure that God is producing the fruit of sanctification in my life.

And the more I consider myself dead to sin and alive to God, the more He is setting me apart and making me more and more and more like Him.

- I. And here's the assurance He gives you because of the fruit of sanctification:
v. 22 and the outcome is eternal life!

God assures you since you want to be like Him, YOU BELONG WITH HIM.

Conclusion:

If you don't have it in your heart to be like God, why would you want to be with God?

But if your heart longs to be like God, you can put it down, you will one day soon be with God.

But until that day, God wants us to bear the fruit of sanctification. He wants you becoming more and more and more like Jesus.

But the only way you can become more like Jesus is, you must consider yourself:

- Dead to self
- Alive to God