

True Disciple #18 Consecration

Welcome to True Disciple #18. This is Rod Nichols and again I want to commend you for continuing on this journey to become a true disciple of Jesus Christ. I'd love to hear about your experiences or what's happening in your life. Email me at Rod@TrueDisciple.Info. I also highly recommend that you listen to these messages over and over. You can find all of them at www.TrueDisciple.Info and click on the Weekly Messages button under the current week's message.

This week I'm going to be talking about consecration. This is a word we don't hear much in the modern church, so first I want to define it. According to Dictionary.com consecrate means to declare sacred, set apart for service, devoted or dedicated to a purpose. Vines Dictionary defines consecration as perfected, dedicated.

In Exodus 19, God tells Moses that He's going to appear to the Israelites and that Moses is to consecrate them before His arrival. In verses 10-11 God tells Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments; and let them be ready for the third day, for on the third day the Lord will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people."

God is Holy and mankind is sinful by nature. He was telling them to clean up their act, so He could be near them without killing them. In fact in verses 12-13 God tells them they can look, but not touch or they will die.

Over the last year, I've had a sense (and it's been confirmed by other church leaders) that God is calling the modern church to be consecrated. Now, we all know that the blood of Jesus covers all sin, but that's not what God is talking about. He's saying that we need to clean up our act, so He can operate with greater power through the church.

Remember that we (born-again believers) are the church, not the building we attend services at. We are also referred to as the bride of Christ and Jesus is the bridegroom. Jesus is coming back for a spotless bride.

We see this in Ephesians 5:25-27, "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the

washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.”

I think the church has overlooked this scripture, except when it applies to marriages. However, if you read it carefully, you will see that it's talking about Jesus as the husband and we, born again believers, as the bride. Jesus is consecrating us by washing with water through the Word, so that we are presented to him as a radiant church, holy and blameless.

If I look at the church through the blood colored glasses of Christ, we are already holy and blameless, but then when I look at the church through my natural eyes, we're a mess. The church is full of sin – lying, stealing, envying, coveting, jealousy, gossiping, sexual sin, and more. We're definitely not holy and blameless. Thank God He sent Jesus to save us and His blood covers our sins.

So, we are definitely under grace and our sins are covered. Now, God is looking to us to begin living a holy life. 1 Peter 1:15-16 says, “But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;¹⁶ for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”¹⁷ Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear.”

Salvation is by grace, through faith and not by works (Ephesians 2:8-9). Once we are saved, our spirit is renewed and connected with the Father through the Holy Spirit. However, our soul (mind, will, and emotions) and body (flesh) are in need of transformation. The process of transforming our thinking and actions is consecration.

Paul talks about this in Romans 12:1-2, “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

True disciples of Jesus will examine themselves daily. As King David did in Psalm 139:23-24, ask God to search you, know your heart, test you, and see if there is

anything offensive in you. When God reveals these things, repent and begin working to consecrate that area by washing with the water of the Word. In other words, find scriptures relating to that area and begin speaking them over yourself. As you do this consistently, these offensive areas will begin to disappear, as spots off a white garment when you wash it.

Jesus is getting ready to come back for His spotless bride. He could show up any minute now. My question for you is, are you be ready?

That's it for message #18. Please take this to heart and begin examining your life. If Jesus was standing before you, would you be pleased with what you are presenting to the bridegroom? If not, it's time to get serious about consecration.

Check back next week for message #19. I'll send out an email notification when the message is posted, so if you aren't receiving the True Disciple updates, go to the front page of the site at www.TrueDisciple.Info and subscribe to the email list. Look for the red starburst in the upper menu or near the bottom of the front page.

Thanks for listening. Have an abundantly blessed week!