The work of the Word of God is sanctification or being purified.

3 Forms of Sanctification: 1) <u>Positional</u>: justified before God, permanent, one time: 1 Cor. 1:2 2) <u>Ultimate</u>: perfected, when positional is completed – at the coming of the Lord or death, 1 Thess. 5:23. 3) <u>Progressive</u>: progress in Christ-likeness; Heb. 10:14.

<u>Only by the Word of God through the Spirit of God can a heart be changed.</u> A transformation takes place in Christ as we are a new creation; 2 Cor. 5:17.

3 Pieces of evidence to lead to one conclusion: <u>A genuine believer in Christ is committed</u> to sanctification to the Glory of God.

- 1) <u>NT View of Sanctification:</u> Jesus: Matt. 5:16; see good works and give glory to God. Mk. 8:34; "deny himself" for a lifetime. Lk. 6:45; a new heart. Jn. 17:17; sanctified by truth. Rev. 2:20-23; repentance from evil. **Paul**: Acts 20:32; "build up." Rom. 12:1-2; "transformed." 1 Cor. 5: 9-13; purge the church of those practicing sin. 2 Cor. 4:16; renewing the inward man. Gal. 5:16; "Walk in the Spirit." Eph. 4:1-2; "walk worthy of the calling with which you were called." Phil. 1:27; conduct worthy of the gospel. Col. 1:9-10; "walk worthy of the Lord." 1 Thess. 5:16-22; "abstain from every form of evil." 2 Thess. 1:11-12; "name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you." 1 Tim. 6:11; "pursue righteousness." 2 Tim. 2:22; "pursue righteousness." Tit. 1:15-16; don't deny Him in your works. Philemon 21; "confidence in obedience." Heb.12:9-11; discipline that we would be partakers of His holiness. Jam. 1:2-4; pray for maturity. Jam. 1:22; "be doers of the Word." 1 Pet. 1:15-16; be holy in your conduct for God is holy. 1 Pet. 2:1-2; put away and grow up. 2 Pet. 1:5-8; increasing in knowledge, adding to our faith. 1 Jn. 2:6; walk as He walked. 2 Jn. 5-6; "walk according to His commandments." 3 Jn. 4; "walk in truth." Jude 20; "building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Spirit."
- 2) <u>The Duty of Shepherds in Sanctification</u>: V1-2; encourage: broad meaning from soft, tender speech to dealing with difficult issues. "Do not rebuke," not just telling what not to do, but instructing on what to put on and do.

<u>5 Duties of Shepherds</u>: 1) Desire sanctification of the church, Gal. 4:19. 2) <u>Pursue own</u> <u>sanctification</u>, Phil. 3:12-14. 3) <u>Preach for change</u>, Is. 6; Jn. 17:17; 2 Tim. 3:16. Preaching warns believers, loves the unloved, corrects the hard hearted, causes conflict within, brings peace to the troubled. 4) <u>Pray for the sanctification of the church</u>, Phil. 1:9-11, 1 Thess. 3:13, Acts 6:4. 5) <u>Foster a sanctifying corporate worship time</u>, not make worship comfortable, but prayer, singing, and exertion in giving and receiving preaching.

3) <u>Expanded Commentary on Sanctification from 1 Tim. 5: 1-2 found in Titus 2:1-10</u>:

- a. <u>Older men</u>: v2, <u>Sober minded</u>: or temperate, steady, not boyish. <u>Dignified</u>: respectful, be able to be emulated. <u>Self-controlled</u>: prudent, not make rash decisions. <u>Sound in faith</u>: doctrinal understanding. <u>Sound in love</u>: counted on to sacrificially love others. <u>Sound in steadfastness</u>: devoted to Christ.
- b. <u>Older women</u>: v3, <u>Reverent</u>: stop acting girlish, immature. <u>Not slanders</u>: grow up, stop making up stories. <u>Not slaves to much wine</u>: not given to pleasure. <u>Teach what is good</u>: concern to teach other younger women.

- c. Young women: v4, defined: women with children in the home. Love their husbands: care for them. Love their children: care for them, don't let others do it. Her family is her highest priority. Self-controlled: learn to be prudent and wise. Pure: pursuing life of holiness. Homemakers: doing tasks at home. Kind: good. Submissive to husbands as husbands are commanded to be submissive to their masters/employers. So that the word of God may not be blasphemed.
- d. Young men: v6, be <u>sober-minded</u>: learn to be wise, gain wisdom.

<u>To Titus and for all of us</u>: be a pattern of good works, sound in teaching and speech. V12, deny worldliness and ungodliness, v14, have zeal to be like Christ.

Further Discussion and Application

Sanctification is found commanded to us in every book of the NT. What is implied for us as believers when we are commanded to build up, walk worthy, work out; pursue, obey, etc.? What is next in our walk with Christ with regards to pursuing sanctification? Will we start confessing a sin to a friend or spouse and ask for help with this area? What are the outcomes of less sin in our lives?

What should man bring to God? How can we do that as we are working towards more holiness and maturity in our lives?

How should we help others in this process? What spirit should we have with others from Eph. 4:32 and Gal. 6:1-4?

Being willing to confront your own self on a regular basis about your sin is the mark of a maturing and growing Christian. What have you confessed privately that you need to now work on replacing with a godly habit?

Provide a diagram or logical chain of events/actions that would produce sanctification in an area of your life?

An Example. List sins-> confess sins-> share struggles with trusted person/spouse-> attend Bible study/small group/ discipleship group->hear sermons/ read books on subject-> serve in the church-> humbly serve in service to others-> attend all gatherings of the fellowship ->give time/talents to a new ministry -> fellowship with another member ->meet new believers.