

# The King's Highway

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## Unlovely Blemishes

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The plainsman of a generation ago carefully guarded against buying a blemished horse. He knew that a blemish not only detracts from the beauty of the horse but is a sure sign of weakness that will show up in some form or other under the stress of work.

Each person should carefully guard his life against moral blemishes. They are not only ugly and unsightly, but they are morally dangerous.

When the subject of blemishes is considered we at once think of some moral delinquencies upon which all society frowns. There are other blemishes, however, that need the attention of the one who is to build his life according to the divine pattern.

**The blemish of stubbornness.** Stubbornness is strength not strong enough to yield, persistence not wise enough to bend, courage that is foolhardy and presumptuous. The stubborn man is obstinate, unreasonable, headstrong. He is spoken of as pigheaded, bullheaded, mulish. The stubborn man does not stand for a thing because it is right but because he chanced to have identified himself with the proposition. He is arrogant toward all who differ, and inflexible in his purpose to have his way. This is a terrible blemish, especially when it is found in one naming the name of Christ.

**The blemish of sensitiveness.** This is an imperfection the scars of which deepen with self-pity. It ever feels that its service is unappreciated, its views scorned, and its rights infringed upon. There is constantly cherished the feeling that many are united in their purpose to hinder progress and limit any success that may come. A person suffering from this malady is fretfully miserable, and by his complaining soon brings discord into the group with whom he associates.

**Still another blemish is slothfulness.** This is a defect that no one admits. It is generally covered with excuses, explanations, alibis. He who yields to sloth turns his house of character over to termites of indolence; he is smoking the opium pipe of self destruction, and destroys the only ladder on which he may climb to greatness in character and service.

"The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labor" (Prov. 21:25).

**One more blemish, superficialness.** This is concerned mainly with appearance, more interested with what others think of them than with what they know themselves to be. It will choose a beautiful garment rather than a beautiful soul when the two come in conflict. Of this group, the Master said they made white the outside of a tomb which was filled with dead men's bones. It shows itself in the desire for froth in music, and sermons that tickle the ears rather than prick the heart.

All of the above blemishes may be found in holiness churches. This is a sad comment upon the spiritual life of

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## We Believe In Sanctification

Dr. C. W. Butler

Our reason for believing in this truth is, it is a Bible Doctrine. As a Bible doctrine, it is directly revealed to be the will of God for His people. "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification." (I Thes. 4:3). "By the which will we are sanctified, through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." (Heb. 10:10).

We see further that it is not only the will of God, but it is directly associated with the supreme sacrifice of Christ, in the shedding of His blood, "Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood suffered without the gate." (Heb. 13:12) Christ loved the Church and gave himself for it, that he might sanctify and cleanse it . . . . That he might present it to himself a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish" (Eph. 5:25-27.)

It is further revealed to be the work of the Holy Spirit, "That the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost. (Rom. 15:6) "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ." (I Peter 1:2) This then is the Bible setting of sanctification. It is in the will of God the Father, it is provided by the blood of Christ the Son, and it is wrought by the agency of the Holy Ghost.

It is further revealed as an experience to be obtained by faith. "And inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me." (Acts 26:18) In Christ's high priestly prayer recorded in the gospel of John Chapter 17:17 Christ prays the Father to sanctify them who are His, through the truth. All this issues in the fact that sanctification is definitely a part of our salvation. It has to do with the complete settling of our sin problem. It is not another salvation, but one part of one salvation. The Father has chosen it for us, the Son has provided it for us, and the Holy Spirit is given to accomplish it for us.

We are to accept the will of the Father, trust the merit of the provision made by the Son, and receive the Holy Spirit by whose agency it is accomplished in and for us. Sanctification defined, is that act of divine grace whereby we are made holy. It is in all of its uses true to the major meaning of the term, namely—"To separate."

As a salvation experience, it is the Holy Spirit separating sin from the members of our human selfhood, as an indwelling fact—thus purifying the heart. In repentance we are separated from the paths of sinning as the habit and course of our outward lives. In sanctification God separates sin from our tempers, appetites and affections, and as he thus purifies, He imparts the "gift of righteousness" which empowers our inner life with the positive element of true holiness.

As the temple of our selfhood is thus cleansed and

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