

Talk: don't know where or when given

Substitutes for Sanctification
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An ironic presentation: "How to do-it-yourself without depending on the Holy Spirit"

How to be sanctified without actually getting better:

1. Put all the hard laws in another dispensation (e.g., before the Church Age or during the Millennium).
2. Realize that this is the age of grace and not of law.
3. Define away certain sins by counting them as "mistakes."
4. Concentrate on externals, or on certain "primary" areas.
5. Notice how bad everyone else is.

How to have the fruit of the Spirit without the Spirit:

1. **Love:** instead just have a pleasant outward appearance (as long as you are not crossed), condescend to those under you, use flattery with those above.
2. **Joy:** number 1 will work, if you will just stick to pleasant surroundings and people.
3. **Peace:** both 1 and 2 are useful; ignore or avoid controversy, don't think about unsaved people, the troubles of other Christians, or modern problems.
4. **Longsuffering:** avoid circumstances where this needs to be used; it doesn't apply to naturally nasty people, nor where matters of principle are involved; make sure the offender knows you are both "long" and "suffering."
5. **Gentleness:** like "love" this can be used as an excuse for not rebuking sin (in certain areas).
6. **Goodness:** being more sanctified according to the principles in the first section above; showing others how good we are; be an example; give free advice.
7. **Faith:** what others should exercise toward your pronouncements; a device to avoid (a) planning, or (b) obedience.
8. **Meekness:** not to be applied to your understanding of Scripture (after all, you are illuminated by the Holy Spirit, "spiritual"); means taking a back seat to obvious superiors, unless they are trying to muscle in; bragging about your (a) lack of education, (b) background of poverty, (c) background of sin, (d) Christian parents (or preacher, or missionary), (e) how you interpret Scripture without the aid of men; not bragging at all (so long as someone else will do it for you).

9. Temperance: total abstinence; drinking in moderation; not speaking the truth if your audience will consider it intemperate.

Conclusion:

What is the source of this "sanctification"?

James 3:13 (NIV) Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. 14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. 16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. 17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. 18 Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.