

The Benefits of Salvation Series

Progressive Sanctification Part Three

June 12, 2022

Dr. Mary Craig

Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.



[Click/tap to hear the live recording](#)

If we are “born out of God ones,” (1 John) then we should become what we are, what God has declared us to be. We should become partakers of the nature of Christ. As we are one spirit with Christ, joined to Him, and our lives are not our own for we have been bought with a price, we should know that as we were baptized into Jesus Christ, we were thus baptized into His death and buried with Him by baptism into death that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:3, 4) We should know that as we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection. Know this, and reckon that we are not to give our members over to the service of sin (and Satan, self and the world system) but to the service of God. (Romans 6:5-14)

We are called to live and not let sin have the say over our mortal body. We are to yield to the Holy Spirit because we don't have to obey the orders of the flesh or of our selfishness or of Satan any more. Sin doesn't have governance over us, unless we let it. Believers are under grace and the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has delivered us from the law of sin and death by the law of faith. (Romans 8:2)

We can be useful to Jesus, our Master, good stewards and servants in the service of God.

²⁰A large house contains not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay. Some indeed are for honorable use, but others are for common use. ²¹So if anyone cleanses himself of what is unfit, he will be a vessel for honor: sanctified, useful to the Master, and prepared for every good work. 2 Timothy 2:20, 21 Berean

We can be like wedding glasses used once only to be wrapped up carefully and stored in a closet. Or, we can be like fancy crystal glasses used only on special occasions, hand washed and stored in the cupboard. Or, we can be favorite glasses, used and washed, used and washed, and kept handy on the kitchen counter. Which do you think turns out to be “golden?” (See 2 Timothy 2:20, 21.)

Who will bear the fruit of righteousness in the kingdom of God? That's the point. We live our lives abiding in Christ and Christ abiding in us, as branch to Vine. We are to bear fruit that remains, the fruit of righteousness, the fruit of the Holy Spirit, the fruit of the light.

Revelation 22:1, 2 speaks of a river of the water of life. The tree of life bears twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. Galatians 5:22, 23 lists nine characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Ephesians 5:9 tells us that the fruit of the light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth, adding two more. Romans 6:22 tells us of our “fruit unto holiness,” or sanctification, making twelve. These characterize the character of Christ, to which we are being conformed by the Holy Spirit. The flesh wars against the Spirit and they are in opposition to each other. To take on the nature of Christ we are to be crucified with Christ, crucified to the flesh with its appetites and lusts, and crucified to the world. Galatians.

The first war we fight is the war within. If we are not clear about when we become an enemy of God, we will be a host body for Satan. Choose life. Choose Christ. Every day.

We are enemies of God when we are friends of the world. James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17

We are enemies of God when we operate in pride. James 4:6

We are enemies of God when we engage in works of the devil. 1 John 3:8; 1 Peter 3:12 [when we do evil in the eyes of the Lord]

We are enemies of God when we rebel. Isaiah 63:10

We are enemies of God when we mind earthly things. Philippians 3:18, 19; Colossians 1:21

We are enemies of God when we engage in the works of the flesh. Galatians 5
(Craig, Mary. *The Weapons of Our Warfare*. Fort Lauderdale, FL: Mary Craig Ministries, Inc. 2007, pages 7-10.)

In Ephesians 5:11-13, Paul admonishes to have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness. 1 John 3:8-10 warns against the works of the devil. Galatians 5:17-25 describes the works of the flesh. Rather, we are to live in the light: Ephesians 5:1-8; Romans 13:12, 13; 1 Peter 2:9, 10. We are to overcome general evil with specific acts of good. Romans 12:21; Romans 13:14. Therefore, we are to put on light, put on the mind of Christ, and put on the full armor of God and fight the good fight of faith.

As to the fruit of righteousness, we can note passages like Philippians 1:10, 11; Isaiah 32:17; Amos 6:2; and Galatians 5. Holiness is the fruit of righteousness, and peace.

“...peace is also the soil in which the fruit of righteousness is sown, the fertile soil in which the soul in communion with Christ is rooted, even as He said to His own before leaving this world, **“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you.”** Only those who enjoy His peace can make peace, and it is for such that the fruit of righteousness is sown.

Righteousness and peace are not only found together here. In Psalm 85:10, it is written, **“Righteousness and peace have kissed each other”**; and how rightly has this been applied to the cross of Christ. Again, in Ephesians 6, **“the breastplate of**

righteousness” is followed by “and your feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace.” <https://www.stempublishing.com/magazines/OSW/51-60/osw59f.html>

The fruit of righteousness is sown in peace. We are talking about the peaceable fruit of righteousness. We reap what we sow. We can ask, “Are we sowing the righteousness of Christ in order to reap thereof? Are we sowing to produce the fruit of righteousness? Are we sowing the soil of humility and peace?”

The living God is the Standard, and becoming what God has declared us to be is the progressive sanctification work of the Holy Spirit, that we might be holy, as God is holy.

“The fruit of righteousness is not the judicial aspect of righteousness that occupies the opening chapters of the Epistle to the Romans, but rather the practical expression of the divine life in those who have been justified in Christ; the manifestation of the features of grace and beauty that were seen in their fullness and perfection in the life of the Lord Jesus on earth. Fruit-bearing is frequently spoken of in Scripture, and in the New Testament it is “by Jesus Christ,” the result of the Father’s care, and “the fruit of the Spirit.” All three Persons of the Godhead are concerned with the production of fruit, the mature expression of the divine life in the saints of God...

“The day of Christ will display the glory of Him whom men refused, and all the saints will be displayed with Him as the fruit of His work on the cross for God’s glory; and in that same glory there will be displayed the fruit of righteousness which has been sown and produced in the saints in the variety of their circumstances, conditions of life, and exercises, in passing through this world. But all that precious fruit in which the Father finds delight is the fruit of the Spirit, the fruit of the Father’s loving care for His sons, and the fruit of Christ’s resources on which His own have drawn during His session at God’s right hand.” <https://www.stempublishing.com/magazines/OSW/51-60/osw59f.html>

Summary. “Sanctification is the work of God’s free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness: (*Shorter Catechism*, Ques. 35). God desires, in accordance with His holy calling by which they were called, that His people walk holy before Him. And *His* people will so walk. There is no sanctification that is not preceded by justification; and there is no justification that is not followed by sanctification. One is to examine oneself to see if he/she is actually in the faith (Psalm 26; Ps 7.9; Ps 17; 2 Corinthians 13.5).

God’s people will in fact experience conflict with sin and temptation and struggle in the faith along the way. There will be a struggle in the war against the flesh. But they will overcome and grow in grace, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. (Reymond, pgs 778-781) Amen.

Bibliography:

Craig, Mary. *The Weapons of Our Warfare*. Fort Lauderdale, FL: Mary Craig Ministries, Inc., 2007, 2019.
Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology*. Leicester, Great Britain: Inter-Varsity Press, and Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1994.

Murray, John. Redemption Accomplished and Applied. Grand Rapids, MI:
Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1989.

Reymond, Robert L. *A New systematic Theology of the Christian Faith*.
Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1998.

Shorter Catechism, Question 35

<https://www.stempublishing.com/magazines/OSW/51-60/osw59f.html>

Mary Craig, D. Min.

© 2022 Mary Craig Ministries, Inc. www.marycraig.org www.mcmtffr.org



Thank you for giving to MCM! Donate: Mary Craig Ministries, Inc., P. O. Box 4610, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33338-4610 or through PayPal® online at www.marycraig.org. Go to marycraig.org for the latest articles and words received. Take a look and see all that God is doing through this ministry, in world missions, in evangelism, the Barnabas Project, Craighthouse® Christian Fellowship, home visitation, Kinetic Koinonia, media, and more. Worship with us 4:30 p.m. Sundays via teleconference. Reach MCM at 954-491-7270. Send in your prayer requests. Follow MCM Bible teachings and Rev. Jim Craig's sermons; go to www.marycraig.org and click on "Audio Bible Studies" or "Divine Appointment"

radio ministry; or go to www.mcmtffr.org for audio sermons, teachings, and handout sheets. Free. Go to www.marycraigverses.org for "Enjoying God for Life," daily encouragement and growing in your faith. Go to www.marycraig.smugmug.com for some pictures of MCM world missions.

See our new Mary Craig Ministries YouTube Channel here:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCs4c-lnXmh2HKF36huJQTOA or www.mcmvideochannel.com. Subscribe for free.

Free books by Dr. Craig to download, print, or just open and use, here: www.marycraig.org/Catalog.htm.

Mary Craig Ministries, Inc. is a USA 501 (C) (3) nonprofit corporation founded in 1993. Federal ID 65-0429517.