LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE DO YOU WANT TO BE WELL?

John 5:1-17

Pastor Miles McPherson - July 6, 2014

When Jesus encountered a man who had been an invalid for 38 years, he asked him, "Do you want to be well?" You would think the man would respond with something like, "Of course I do! That's why I'm here!" But instead, he gave Jesus the reason he wasn't well. Many times we're like that man – Jesus is asking us "Do you want to be well?" in regards to relational brokenness, substance abuse or struggling with living in defeat. But we respond with excuses as to why things aren't working in our lives.

In this week's message, Pastor Miles challenged us to respond to Jesus with "Yes," and to let him make our lives whole.

Memory Verse

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it. (1 Thess 5:23-24)

DISCUSSION STARTERS

If you were to grade your health in the following three areas, what would those grades be?

Spirit
Soul (mind, emotions, will)
Body
A B C D F
B C D F

STUDY QUESTIONS

→ Read 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

What do you learn about God from this passage?



- What does it mean that God will "sanctify you completely?" (see end note)
- What's the main point of this passage?
- How will you respond to the encouragement and promise of these verses?

→ Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

- What "evil" activities did the people of Israel engage in during the time of Moses?
- What warning does Paul give in verse 12?
- What promise does he give in verse 13?
- How will you respond to the encouragement of verse 13?

GROUP ACTIVITY

Who does God want you to reach out to, to bring hope and healing to in Jesus name? What would that look like?

Personal reflection & application:

- What is one thing that Jesus could "make well" in your life that would make a huge difference?
- Do you believe that Jesus can make you well in that area?
- Are you ready to surrender that area to him & ask him to heal you?
- Pray, surrendering that one thing to Jesus today, asking him to heal and make you well.



| Notes: | | | |
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- (1) **Positional sanctification.** This is the believer's position or standing before God, based on the death of Christ. In positional sanctification the believer is accounted holy before God; he is declared a saint. Paul frequently began his letters by addressing the believers as saints... It is noteworthy that so carnal a group as the church at Corinth is addressed as "those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus" (1 Cor. 1:2). This positional sanctification is achieved through the once-for-all death of Christ (Heb. 10:10, 14, 29).
- (2) **Experiential Sanctification.** Although the believer's positional sanctification is secure, his experiential sanctification may fluctuate because it relates to his daily life and experience. Paul's prayer is that believers should be sanctified entirely in their experience (1 Thess. 5:23); Peter commands believers to be sanctified or holy (1 Peter 1:16). This experiential sanctification grows as the believer dedicates his life to God (Rom. 6:13; 12:1–2) and is nourished by the Word of God (Ps. 119:9–16). Clearly, additional factors enter into experiential sanctification.
- (3) **Ultimate Sanctification.** This aspect of sanctification is future and anticipates the final transformation of the believer into the likeness of Christ. At that time all believers will be presented to the Lord without any blemish (Eph. 5:26–27).

(Paul P. Enns, The Moody Handbook of Theology (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1989), 329-30.)



¹ The word *sanctification* (Gk. *hagiasmos*) means "to set apart." The same root word is found in the English words *saint, holy,* and *holiness...* With respect to the New Testament believer, there are primarily three aspects of sanctification.