

# How Sweet the Sound: God's Maturing Grace

Wylie Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – June 25, 2023

## Ephesians 4:11-15

11 It was he [Jesus] who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. 14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

God, in His Sanctifying grace...

## 1. SEEKS TO MAKE US PURE, MATURE, HOLY

### Ephesians 4:13, 15

... become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. 15 ... in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ

### 1 Peter 1:15-16

15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

### 2 Corinthians 5:17

... if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

### Romans 7:20

... it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

### Matthew 26:41

"... The spirit is willing, but the body (flesh) is weak."

### Philippians 3:3, 16

3 [Those in Christ] ... put no confidence in the flesh—  
16 ... let us live up to what we have already attained.

The Holy Spirit is helping us become what we already are.

God, in His Sanctifying grace...

## 2. WORKS THROUGH HIS WORD & THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

### John 17:17

"Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth."

### Romans 15:16

[We are] ... sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

### Galatians 3:3

Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?

God's Sanctifying grace is...

## 3. AN ONGOING PROCESS THAT BRINGS HIM GLORY

### 2 Corinthians 3:18

[We] are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

### Philippians 1:6

He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

### Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works...

### James 1:3-4

3 ... the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

### James 1:2-4.

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.