

says, "But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ." So our growth in grace is our first purpose; it is that in which the Lord is primarily interested. He says in 1 Pet. 2:2, "as new born babes desire the sincere milk of the word that ye may grow thereby" and in 2 Pet. 3:18, He says, "Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

Now this growth in grace is also expressed by the term sanctification. Sanctification is not like justification. ~~Sanct~~ --- something that comes suddenly and completely. Sanctification is a process in which we make -- we may make great steps forward, but we should constantly be making some steps forward. And sanctification of the believer is his growth in grace, his being made into the image of Christ, made over into what God wants him to be. And Paul, says in 1 Thess. 4:3. "For this is the will of God even your sanctification." This is His purpose. our hagiasmos our being made into what He wants us to be. Jesus in His great prayer shortly before His death, prayed for His people. He said "Sanctify them through thy truth. Thy word is truth." And ~~Jesus~~ Jesus here stressed the fact that the primary agent in our sanctification is the study of His Word and its application to ourselves. The term "saints" is used very frequently in the Scripture as a term used to describe those who are saved. It means those who are being sanctified. Those who are on the way to complete sanctification.

Now in view of this fact in view of this stress in the Scripture, it is easily understandable why in the Middle Ages and shortly before also. many people withdrew themselves completely from the world and tried to go off as hermits or monks by themselves apart from the ~~world~~ world thinking ~~to~~ simply to perfect their spiritual life and to grow in grace. Now that is much better than to devote yours~~elves~~<sup>self</sup> to the service of the Lord in spreading of His Word and not to grow at all yourself. But it is a pervers~~ion~~ and a misunderstanding because we cannot truly grow in grace without serving the Lord and having a concern for others. Our service is a vital part of our