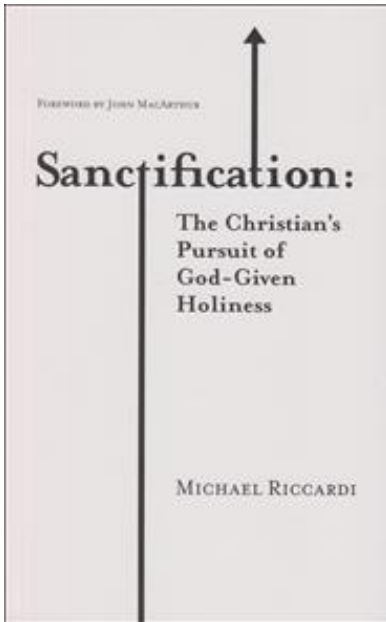


# book of the month *Sanctification – Michael Riccardi*



Whether you realize it or not, for the past several years, evangelicals have been engaged in an intense ongoing discussion about the doctrine of sanctification (the process of becoming more like Christ). Scripture's teaching on sanctification matters greatly. It impacts and reflects what we believe about God, salvation, preaching, Christian fellowship, and a host of other doctrines. Today, popular church leaders and whole churches have adopted a view of sanctification that requires them to do little more than "remember the gospel" and "consider who you are in Christ" in repentance and counseling. In *Sanctification: The Christian's Pursuit of God-Given Holiness*, I think Mike Riccardi captures Scripture's emphasis – the Christian's duty to aggressively pursue the holiness that our gracious God gives.

I read this book over the summer and was greatly encouraged as Riccardi, a pastor at Grace Community Church in Los Angeles, succinctly communicated the biblical balance between grace and obedience. The impact of this book on my own thinking far exceeded the book's slim size (page 40 is worth the price of the book in my opinion!).

- omri

## Heart-Shepherding Helps

- Scripture Memory.** Consider memorizing some of the following passages having to do with sanctification:
  - John 14:21
  - 2 Corinthians 3:18
  - Philippians 2:12-13
- Self-Examination.** Consider your response to your own sin. Do you tend to think of God's grace in such a way that diminishes your own responsibility to aggressively pursue holiness at all costs (Matthew 5:27-30)? Do you focus on your own striving for holiness in such a way that makes Christ and the gospel an afterthought or periphery considerations (1 Corinthians 1:30-31)?
- Counseling Implications.** Think about the past few opportunities you had to counsel a believing friend or family member. Believers need to hear different counsel from us depending on that person's need at that moment (see 1 Thessalonians 5:14). Did your instruction give appropriate weight to the gospel and its implications and personal obedience?

### Suggested One-Month Reading Plan:

18.5 pages per week (less than 3 pages/day)

#### Week 1: September 4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>

Foreword – 3 pages  
Chapter 1 – 5 pages  
Chapter 2 – 12 pages

#### Week 2: September 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>

Chapter 3 – 8 pages  
Chapter 4 – 13 pages

#### Week 3: September 18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>

Chapter 5 – 3 pages  
Chapter 6 – first 11 pages

#### Week 4: September 25<sup>th</sup> – October 2<sup>nd</sup>

Chapter 6 – remaining 15 pages