

Sanctification

I Cor. 6:11, “...but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus...”

Our historic faith has been well expressed in the 1689 London Confession of Faith. Following the 13th chapter “Of Sanctification” will be my outline trying to share four aspects of biblical sanctification.

1 “They who are united to Christ, effectually called, and regenerated, having a new heart and a new spirit created in them through the virtue of Christ's death and resurrection, are also farther sanctified, really and personally, through the same virtue, by His Word and Spirit dwelling in them; the dominion of the whole body of sin is destroyed, and the several lusts thereof are more and more weakened and mortified, and they more and more quickened and strengthened in all saving graces, to the practice of all true holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.”

2 “This sanctification is throughout the whole man, yet imperfect in this life; there abideth still some remnants of corruption in every part, whence ariseth a continual and irreconcilable war; the flesh lusting against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh.”

3 “In which war, although the remaining corruption for a time may much prevail, yet through the continual supply of strength from the sanctifying Spirit of Christ, the regenerate part doth overcome; and so the saints grow in grace, perfecting holiness in the fear of God, pressing after an heavenly life, in evangelical obedience to all the commands which Christ as Head and King, in His Word hath prescribed them.”

I. Positional Sanctification

✓ Separated from the penalty of sin

A. Is by our union with Christ: (Eph. 2:5-6; Heb. 10:10-14)

1. "They who are united to Christ... are also farther sanctified, really and personally..."
2. The believer is separated from the condemnation and resulting penalty of sin by his union with Christ, I Cor. 1:2.

B. Is by our justification through Christ: (Rom. 6:7, Heb. 13:12-14)

1. It is justification that establishes the relationship upon which our holiness rests. (Eph. 2:1-6)
2. It is Christ's death that has secured and procured our abilities to live unto God. (Col. 2:20)
3. Eph. 2:1-6, we have been set apart from being dead in sins, to being alive in and with Christ seated in the heavenlies. (Col. 2:20)

II. Provisional Sanctification

✓ Separated from the power of sin

A. A determined act: ("*...such were some of you...*")

1. The reign of sin is over (Rom. 6:6, 11, 14, 18), (Gal. 2:20) sin has no legal right to rule over us.
2. The removal of enmity between God and man (Rom. 8:7) and between man and God's law (Eph. 2:15-16)
3. We have been freed from sin's dominion and are under the power or reign of grace (Rom. 4:14).

B. A gracious act

1. Whereby we are empowered to live unto righteousness, I Peter 2:24-25 ("ye were" "but are now")
2. "The sins that are ours, he himself carried up in his own body, in order that we may cease to exist for sin and live for true righteousness."

III. Progressive Sanctification:

- ✓ Separated from the pervasiveness of sin

A. Forming Christ in us: (Rom. 12:2)

1. Sanctification, in this sense, is an ongoing process by which the desire to pray, to worship, to glorify God, to serve, honor, and love him is the result of the Holy Spirit working in us, (Phil. 2:12-13; II Cor. 3:18)
2. As I realize my position in Christ and my provision in Christ I can begin to realize Christ being formed in me.

B. Fueling Christ in us: (Rom. 8:13)

1. Being separated from a life of sin – this principle of divine life transforms us throughout our life (Eph. 4:12-14) by the gifts God has given whereby his holy ones are completed, furnished, built up, and increased (II Cor. 7:1)
2. This is accomplished through the indwelling Spirit – (Rom. 8:13, we cannot overcome the predisposition of the flesh to sin except by the power of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 3:1-3; 5:16-17)

C. Fashioning Christ in us

1. This is accomplished through the word of God and the Holy Spirit; Jn. 17:17; 5:30; II Tim. 3:15
2. This is accomplished through the preaching, teaching and reading of God's word and the Holy Spirit – Gal. 4:19, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

IV. Perfective Sanctification:

- ✓ Separated from the presence of sin

A. The final perfection of the believer

1. Being separated from the presence of sin – the final separation, (Phil. 3:20-21)

2. This is accomplished after our death and in our final change, (Rom. 8:29-30)

B. The complete perfection of the believer:

1. Every believer will be ultimately sanctified – no one gets overlooked, (I Thess. 5:23)
2. The sum total of who you are will be sanctified; no failure, no part of you is overlooked
3. While it is a part of the purpose and plan of God we can see Paul made it a matter of prayer “*I pray God...*” Paul was praying for growth now and a continued work which leads to the complete and ultimate perfection of the believer.

C. The promised perfection of the believer:

1. This is based upon God’s faithfulness (8:23-24)
2. When you see you are not sinless, realize that God will bring you the rest of the way home. He will ultimately and completely sanctify you. So keep on keeping on, and look forward to that day of redemption.
3. Be patient and persevere knowing that “*all things work together for good to them that love God*” because God has predestinated us to “*...be conformed to the image of his son...*” that is a promise God can and will keep.