

Biblical Theology

Unit 5: Doctrine of Salvation – Lesson 6: Sanctification

Progressive Aspects of Sanctification

- Definition: Sanctification is a progressive work of God and man that makes us more and more free from sin and like Christ in our actual lives.
 1. **Sanctification has a beginning at regeneration.**
 - **1 John 3:9** - No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, they have been born of God.
 - **Titus 3:4-5** - saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Spirit,
 - **Romans 6:8;11-14** - Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.
 2. **Sanctification is a lifelong, increasing likeness of Christ.**
 - **Hebrews 12:1** - And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,
 - **2 Corinthians 3:18** - being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.
 - **Colossians 3:10** – [We] have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.
 3. **Sanctification is completed at death (soul) and resurrection (body).**
 - **1 John 1:8** - If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves
 - **Revelation 21:27** - Nothing impure will ever enter it
 - **Philippians 3:20-21** - will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.
 - **1 Corinthians 15:54** - When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

Affects and Effects of Sanctification

- God and man cooperate in the sanctification process, though God is the one who accomplishes it in us.
 1. **God accomplishes sanctification as we cooperate with him.**
 - God's Role
 - **1 Thessalonians 5:23** - May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through.
 - **1 Corinthians 1:30** - our righteousness, holiness and redemption.
 - **1 Peter 1:** through the sanctifying work of the Spirit,
 - **2 Thessalonians 2:13** - through the sanctifying work of the Spirit
 - **Galatians 5:16-18** - So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh..
 - Our Role
 - **Hebrews 12:14** - Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.
 - **1 Thessalonians 4:3** - It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality;
 - **2 Corinthians 7:1** - let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence
 - **2 Peter 1:5** - For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge;

2. **Sanctification is personal but not private.**

- Sanctification is usually a corporate process.
 - *Hebrews 10:24-25* - spur one another on toward love and good deeds,
 - *1 Thessalonians 5:11* - encourage one another and build each other up,
 - *Ephesians 4:1-3* - Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit

3. **Sanctification affects the whole person.**

- Our Minds
 - **Romans 12:2** - be transformed by the renewing of your mind.
 - **Colossians 1:10** - growing in the knowledge of God,
 - **2 Corinthians 10:5** - take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.
- Our Emotions
 - **Galatians 5:22** - love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness,
 - **Ephesians 4:31** - Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.
- Our Will
 - **Matthew 6:11** - your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
 - **Philippians 2:13** - to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.
- Our Spirit
 - **2 Corinthians 7:1** - purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.
 - **1 Corinthians 7:34** - Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit.
- Our Physical Bodies
 - **1 Thessalonians 5:23** - May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - **Romans 6:12** - Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body
 - **1 Corinthians 6:19-20** - Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

4. **Sanctification transforms our motivations in life.**

- Motivation to love and please God.
 - **Hebrews 13:16** - with such sacrifices God is pleased.
- Motivation to keep a clear conscience
 - **Romans 13:5** - also as a matter of conscience.
- Motivation to be used by God
 - **2 Timothy 20-21** - useful to the Master, prepared to do any good work.
- Motivation to see others transformed.
 - **1 Peter 3:1-2** - they may be won over without words by the behavior
- Motivation to avoid God's displeasure
 - **Ephesians 4:30** - And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God
- Motivation to live and walk in what is right.
 - **Philippians 4:8** - think about such things.

Discussion Questions

1. How would you respond to a young Christian that views sanctification as a very discouraging aspect to their walk with Christ?
2. How does the idea of Christian growth tie into the doctrine of sanctification?
3. When you look at all of the areas God desires to sanctify us, which areas have you been least cooperative? What must you do to be more cooperative?

Reading Assignment

Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem – Chapter 41: Death and the Intermediate State