

New City Catechism Class

Week 32

Q32: What do justification & sanctification mean?

A32: Justification means our declared righteousness before God, made possible by Christ's death & resurrection for us. Sanctification means our gradual, growing righteousness, made possible by the Spirit's work in us.

1 Peter 1:1-2

To those who are elect exiles... according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace be multiplied to you. (esv)

Discuss the question:

- What makes this question so important?
- What does it mean to be Justified or "declared righteous before God"
- Why do we need to be justified?
- Why ask these questions together?
- What do we normally associate with sanctification or being sanctified?

Discuss the Scripture:

- Who are the "elect exiles"
 - What's the basis for their election?
- What are these elect believers "in"?
 - What does it mean to be "in the sanctification of the Spirit"?
- What have they been elected for?
 - What does obedience have to do with sanctification?
- What is the significance of "sprinkling with blood"?
 - What does sprinkling with blood have to do with justification?

Discuss the answer in light of the Scripture:

- What does it mean that our justification was made possible by Christ's death?
- What does Christ's resurrection have to do with our justification?
- Who is responsible for our sanctification?
- Read **Hebrews 10:14**...
 - What is the relationship between justification & sanctification?
- Read **Jeremiah 32:38-40, Romans 8:28-30, and Philippians 1:6** ...
 - How can we be confident that we will be sanctified?
 - How can this give you hope in your struggles with sin or lack of growth?
- Read **Colossians 3:1-4, 1 John 3:2-3, and 2 Peter 1:1-11**...
 - Why should we work toward sanctification?
- How does the understanding that God plans for us to be sanctified affect the way we relate to one-another?
 - How does this influence our hesitation to address sin in each other?
 - How does this influence our aversion to having our own sin addressed by others?