

## Fundamentals of Our Faith from the Beginning

### Understanding Salvation (Part Three): Sanctification<sup>1</sup>

**Sanctification:** We believe that every believer has been set apart with a perfect standing before God. As believers yield themselves to the Holy Spirit, they will experience spiritual growth in holiness but not perfection in conduct in this life. Believers will battle the world, the flesh and the devil, but living by faith in Christ results in transformation of the heart and authentic righteous living. Future rewards are determined primarily by what motivates Christian behavior. Those whose behavior is an outflow of finding their identity in Christ will be rewarded. (Berean Fellowship of Churches – Articles of Faith VII)

**The New City Catechism:** Q. 32b. What does sanctification mean?

- A. Sanctification means our gradual, growing righteousness, made possible by the Spirit's work in us.

#### Warm Up Questions:

1. Why is the Doctrine of Sanctification important for us to study as a Church?
2. How does the Doctrine of Sanctification relate to the 2 previous doctrines of Regeneration and Justification?
3. What are some potential ditches to beware of in the pursuit of holiness?

#### A. Old Testament Background – Israel

1. Qadash (kaw-dash): to be, make, pronounce or observe as clean (ceremonially or morally). translated as sanctify, holy, or hallow.
2. This Hebrew term is used to refer to the seventh day (Gen. 2:3), God's people, the tabernacle and contents of tabernacle, the altar, the priests and priestly garments, the firstborn, and God is to be sanctified by his people.
3. People became unclean by either transgressing the Law or contact with the dead. Through an offered sacrifice they were made clean again.
4. God's people were to be holy because the Lord their God was holy. (Lev. 19:1-4)
5. Similar to Regeneration and Justification; sin makes Sanctification necessary.

#### B. The Doctrine of Sanctification

1. The three stages of Sanctification
  - a. Positional Sanctification (1 Cor. 1:2; 6:11; Heb. 10:10, 14)

---

<sup>1</sup> Much of the content for this handout is taken from Wayne Grudem's Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994).

- b. Progressive Sanctification (Heb. 10:10, 14; John 15:1-5)
  - c. Final Sanctification (Phil. 3:20-21; 1 Cor. 15:42-58)
- 2. Sanctification is necessary for Christians
  - a. Holiness is God's will for you (1 Thess. 4:3)
  - b. No one will see the Lord without holiness (Heb. 12:14)
  - c. Fruitless branches are cut off and burned (John 15:2, 6)
- 3. The foundation for Sanctification is our Union with Christ and the new life a Christian has received in Regeneration and our Union with Christ.
  - a. John 15:1-17, Illustration of the vine and branches
  - b. Rom. 6:1-14 Paul's teaching on the Christian's relationship to God and sin
  - c. 1 Cor. 1:30 Christ is our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption
- 4. Divine and Human agency: God and the believer are both active in the work of sanctification
  - a. You work, God works, (Phil. 2:12-13; 1 Thess. 5:23)
  - b. Fruit is a work of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-26; 2 Thess. 2:13)
  - c. We have both an active and passive role (Rom 6:11-13; Rom. 8:13)
- 5. Sanctification affects the Whole Person
  - a. Intellect (Rom. 12:2; 2 Cor. 10:5; Phil. 1:9; Col. 3:10)
  - b. Emotions (Gal. 5:22; Rom. 6:17; Eph. 4:31; 1 Pet. 2:11; 1 John 2:15)
  - c. Will – decision-making faculty (Phil. 2:13)
  - d. Spirit and Physical body (Rom. 6:12; 1 Cor. 6:13-20; 7:34; 9:27; 2 Cor. 7:1; 1 Thess. 5:23)

### **C. The Pursuit of Holiness**

- 1. The pursuit of holiness is warfare; Cutting off limbs and killing sin (Matt. 5:27-30; Rom. 8:13)
- 2. Means of Grace: Essential Resources for Growing Christians<sup>2</sup>
  - a. The Word of God (Psalm 119:11; John 17:17; 2 Tim. 3:14-17)
  - b. Prayer (Acts 2:42; Luke 19:46; Eph. 6:18)
  - c. Self-Examination, Confession, and Repentance (1 John 1:8-2:1; 1 Cor. 11:27-29)
  - d. A vital connection to a local church (Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 12:12-27)
- 3. Putting on the new man / Putting off sin (Eph. 4:17-32; Col. 3:1-17)

---

<sup>2</sup> See *The Essential Means of Grace* by Paul Washer (Grand Rapids: Reformation Heritage Books, 2020)