

What We Must Believe - Sanctification

Martin Luther's Simul Justus et Peccator – simultaneously justified and sinner

Sanctification - a progressive work of God and man that makes us more and more free from sin and like Christ in our actual lives.

JUSTIFICATION

Legal Standing

Once for all time

Entirely God's work

Perfect in this life

The same in all Christians

SANCTIFICATION

Internal condition

Continuous throughout life

We cooperate

Not perfect in this life

Greater in some than in others

Four Stages of Sanctification:

1. Sanctification Has a Definite Beginning at Regeneration.

- a. 1 John 3:9, "No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God."
- b. 1 Corinthians 6:11, "But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God."

2. Sanctification Increases Throughout Life

- a. The NT shows sanctification as beginning at regeneration, but also as a process through our lives.
- b. "Be holy yourselves in all your conduct." (1 Peter 1:15)

3. Sanctification is Completed at Death (for Our Souls) When the Lord Returns (for Our Bodies)

- a. Our sanctification will never be completed in this life because there is still sin that remains in our hearts even though we are followers of Christ.
- b. So when we die, then our sanctification is completed in one sense, because now our souls are finally free from the indwelling sin and are made perfect, but also when the Lord returns and gives us our resurrection bodies, that is also a part of our sanctification.

4. Sanctification is Never Completed in This Life.

- a. Caution against False Teachers: there are false teachers out there that say that once you come to Christ, that you are perfect, that you should no longer sin at any time from the point in which you came to Christ. This is called perfectionism. They look at passages such as Matthew 5:48 or 2 Corinthians 7:1.
- b. Matthew 5:48, "You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."
- c. 2 Corinthians 7:1, "Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God."
- d. The OT and NT both teach that we CANNOT be morally perfect in this life.

i. 1 Kings 8:46

"If they sin against you - For there is no man who does not sin"

ii. Ecclesiastes 7:20

"Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins."

iii. 1st John 1:8

"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

God's and Man's Role in Sanctification

God's Role:

1. It's important to understand that sanctification is PRIMARILY a work of God.
 - a. 1 Thessalonians 5:23 "May the God of peace himself sanctify you wholly"
 - b. Philippians 2:13, "God is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure."
 - c. The role of God the Son, Jesus Christ, in sanctification is first that Jesus himself earned our sanctification for us. Jesus is our wisdom, our righteousness, sanctification and redemption. Also Jesus is our example to follow.
2. The role of God the Holy Spirit works within us to change us and sanctify us, giving us greater holiness of life. Paul tells us to "walk by the Spirit," "led by the Spirit." The Holy Spirit produces the fruit of the Spirit and we are more responsive to the desires and promptings of the Holy Spirit in our life and character.

Man's Role:

Our role is both a **passive** and **active** in sanctification. The passive role is we depend on God to sanctify us and the active role is that we strive to obey God and take steps that will increase our sanctification.

Passive Role:

1. **Romans 6:13**
"Yield yourselves to God as men who have been brought from death to life"
2. **Romans 12:1**
"Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God."
3. **Romans 8:13**
"If by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of body you will live."

Active Role:

1. **Romans 8:13**
"If by the Spirit, you put to death the deeds of the body you will live."
2. **Philippians 2:12-p 13**
"Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, you work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for God is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure."

So, what are the ways in which we grow in holiness, maturity and obedience. Read and meditate on the Word of God, prayer, corporate worship, witnessing, Christian fellowship and self-discipline or self-control.

What Sanctification Affects:

1. Our Intellect
 - a. Colossians 3:10
“which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator”
 - b. Philippians 1:9
“abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment.”
 - c. Romans 12:2
“transformed by the renewal of your mind”
 - d. More than just head knowledge, but growth in wisdom and knowledge.
2. Our Emotions
 - a. Galatians 5:22
“love, joy, peace, patience”
 - b. We will find it increasingly true that we do not love the things of the world, but delight to do God's will.
3. Our Will
 - a. Our decision-making grows in sanctification as our will will be more and more conformed to the will of our heavenly Father
4. Our Spirit
 - a. 2 Corinthians 7:1
 - b. 1 Corinthians 7:34, “how to be holy in body and spirit.”
5. Our Physical Bodies
 - a. 1 Thessalonians 5:23, “May the God of peace himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ”.
 - b. We do not let sin reign in our bodies, nor allow our bodies to participate in any way in immorality, but we treat our bodies with care and will recognize that they are means by which the Holy Spirit works through us in this life.

Motives for Obedience

1. Desire for a deeper walk with God
2. Desire to do what God commands, simply because his commands are right, and we delight in doing what is right.
3. Desire to avoid God's displeasure and discipline on our lives.