

Lesson 10

Benefits of Our Union with Christ Part II – Sanctification and Perseverance

Objective: To comprehend what happens to those in Christ following conversion

I. Sanctification

- a. Meaning: from “sanctus” (holy), “to set apart”
Hebrew: qadowsh
Greek: hagos
- b. Concepts
Definitive Sanctification – a fact
Progressive Sanctification – a command

II. Definitive Sanctification

- a. What?

Similar to justification -- declared holy because the holiness of Christ has been put on believer’s account (imputed)

1 Cor. 1:2 -- To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ...

- b. Result?

Transferred from Satan’s kingdom to Christ’s kingdom

Col. 1:13 -- He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son...

III. Progressive Sanctification

- a. Why?

Because God commands it

Lev. 19:2 - You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

2 Cor. 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.

1 Thess. 4:3 - For this is the will of God, your sanctification...

1 Cor. 1:2 - To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ...

2 Peter 1:10 - ...be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election...

Heb. 12:1-2 - ...let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Additional Resources:

WCF Chapters XII-XVIII (12-18)

WLC 75-81, 152-153

WSC 35-36, 85-87

also covers
Assurance

John Frame: *Salvation Belongs to the Lord: An Introduction to Systematic Theology*, pp. 211-228

b. What?

Gradual growth in holiness/righteousness

- i. Acknowledges that we still have a sinful nature

1 John 1:8 - If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

- ii. Acknowledges the necessity for God to work in us

2 Cor. 3:18 - And we all...are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Which brings us to what some see as a problem...

Parallel truths: God is totally sovereign; man is totally responsible

c. How?

Phil. 1:12 -- ...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling...for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Gal. 5:22 - ...the fruit of the Spirit is...

Pastor Drew's sermon 11/13/22 - 1 Thess. 5

- v. 12-13 – through the help of church leaders

- v. 14-15 – through fellowship with other believers

- v. 16-22 – through worship, the Word and the means of grace

- v. 23-24 – all through the grace of God himself

Ephesians 6:11 ff. – Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil...

WSC Q&A 35 - What is sanctification? Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.

2 Thess. 2:13; Eph. 4:23-24; Col. 3:10; Rom. 6:4, 6, 13

IV. Perseverance

Westminster Confession of Faith XVII.I

They, whom God hath accepted in his Beloved, effectually called, and sanctified by his Spirit, can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved.

John 6:39-40 - And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

John 10:28-29 - I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

Because the triune God perseveres, we persevere.