

Bible Training Institute

To proactively accelerate the spiritual growth of Grace Bible Church for the purpose of knowing God more intimately and becoming more effective servants of God in the world

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Soteriology Part 7

The Doctrine of Sanctification,
Union with Christ
Glorification

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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” (Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 746).
- “In particular, sanctification is the Holy Spirit’s applying to the life of the believer the work done by Jesus Christ.” (Erickson, *Theology*, 980).
- “The work of God by which He makes us holy we call sanctification” (Anthony A. Hoekema, *Five Views on Sanctification*, 61).

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Sanctification

Relationship to Justification

Justification	Sanctification
Declared Righteous	Made Righteous
Removes guilt of sin	Removes pollution of sin
Work of Christ for us	Work of Christ in us
Liberates from the penalty of sin	Liberates from the power of sin

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Sanctification

Language of Sanctification

- Latin = *sanctus* (holy) and *facere* (to make)
- OT–
 - ✓ *Qadash*-verb = “be consecrated” or “be holy”
 - ✓ *Qodesh*- noun = “apartness” or “holiness”
 - ✓ *Qadosh*- adjective = “holy” or “pure”
 - ✓ Root = *qad*= “to cut” or “to separate”
 - ✓ SUMMARY: God’s people are set apart for God’s service and should avoid whatever displeases Him.

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Sanctification

Categories of Sanctification

- Positional Sanctification–
the Christian is set aside for God’s possession and is declared holy by faith in Christ.–1 Cor 6:11; Acts 26:18; Heb 10:10-12; Heb 10:14; Heb 13:12-13

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Sanctification

Categories of Sanctification (cont'd)

- Progressive Sanctification-
the believer's continual advance toward spiritual maturity. It is that process of being progressively set apart from sin toward a moral conformity to the image of Christ.—
The beginning point is regeneration (Titus 3:5)

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Sanctification

Categories of Sanctification (cont'd)

- Progressive Sanctification (cont'd)
 - ✓ Growing in knowledge—2 Peter 3:18
 - ✓ Putting off and putting on—Eph 4:22-24
 - ✓ Contrast between flesh and fruit—Gal 5:16
 - ✓ By means of the Word of God—John 17:17

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Sanctification

Categories of Sanctification (cont'd)

- Perfected (Ultimate Sanctification)
 - ✓ Completed at death for our souls and when the Lord returns for our bodies—
Heb 12:23; Phil 3:21
 - ✓ Perfect Christlikeness occurs only at the coming of Christ and our resurrection—1 John 3:2; 1 Thess. 3:12-13

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Sanctification

What about “entire sanctification” or “second work of grace?”—(John Wesley)

- Wesley: Entire sanctification not absolute perfection but relative perfection involving freedom from willful sin.
- Based on mischaracterization of passages such as Matt 5:48
- Wesley believed he never personally experienced this
- Rebuttal: Matt 6:12; John 13:10; Phil 3:12; James 3:2; 1 John 1:8

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Union with Christ

Definition

- The life of Jesus Christ risen, glorified, and dwelling within the believer is the life of the Christian.

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Union with Christ

Historical Views

- Ontological [the study of being or existence]/Mystical -mystical absorption on the divine life (appeals to Gal 2:20)
- Sacramental Union- (Roman Catholics and some Lutherans)—united to Christ via the sacraments (especially baptism and Eucharist)—(appeals to John 6:53)

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Union with Christ

Historical Views (cont'd)

- Covenantal Union—united with Christ under the Covenant of Grace (no such covenant named in Scripture)
- Moral Union—Friendship, trust and fellowship
- Experiential Union—Union with Christ is a relationship of personal identification and fellowship with Christ.

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Union with Christ

Categories of Experiential Union

- Christ in us
 - ✓ By faith (2 Cor 13:5)
 - ✓ By Holy Spirit (John 14:16-20, 23)
 - ✓ Places Christ's life within us—a quickening of the spirit (Gal 2:20; Rom 8:10)
 - ✓ Need to be recognized and experientially realized (2 Cor 13:5; Gal 4:19)
 - ✓ Provides hope for the future (Col 1:27)

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Union with Christ

Categories of Experiential Union (cont'd)

- Us in Christ
 - ✓ Planned in eternity past (Eph. 1:4).
 - ✓ Effected by a spiritual identification with Christ (Rom. 6:3-5; Eph. 2:4-7).
 - ✓ It provides new, eternal life (Rom. 6:4, 11, 23; 1 Cor. 15:22).
 - ✓ We become one spirit with Christ (1 Cor. 6:17)
 - ✓ We become a new creature (2 Cor. 5:17)

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Union with Christ

Illustrations

- Vine and branches—John 15:5
- Father and Son—John 14:20, 17:21
- A building—Eph 2:19-22
- Human body—Rom 12:4-5; 1 Cor 12:12-27
- Husband and wife—Eph 5:23-32

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Union with Christ

Implications

- Antidote to legalism (Col 2:20)
- Antidote to worldliness (Col 3:1)
- Means we are declared righteous (Rom 8:1)
- We live in Christ's strength (Phil 4:13)

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Glorification

- Glorification is the future aspect of our salvation—Rom 8:29-30
- Where soteriology and eschatology intersect
- Hope of Glorification: Ps 73:24; Rom 8:18; 2 Cor 4:17; 2 Thess 2:14; 1 Peter 5:4

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Glorification

Phases of Glorification

- Phase 1—believer's death—soul departs physical body to enter the presence of Christ—2 Cor 5:8; Luke 23:43; Acts 7:59; Matt 17:3
- Phase 2—rapture/resurrection event (1 Thess 4:13-18)
- Phase 3—right after second coming of Christ—OT saints and tribulation saints resurrected (Dan 12:1-3; Rev 20:4-6).
- Phase 4—(implied)—Millennial saints raised

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Glorification

Results of Glorification

- Glorified physical existence (Rom 8:23; Phil 3:20-21)
- Perfected morally and spiritually (Perfected or Ultimate Sanctification) (Col 1:22; Jude 24; 1 John 3:2; Heb 12:23)
- Fullness of knowledge (1 Cor 13:12)
- Participation in the renewal of the creation (Rom 8:19-23; Rev 21:1-2)

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Glorification

Implications

- Motivates to Godly living now (1 Cor 15:58)
- Ultimate answer to the problem of evil
- Someday we will not struggle with sin
- Full glorified experience of relationships with God and fellow believers

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