

BC 24 – Part 1–Hallowing of the Soul

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Sanctification flows from the doctrine of justification and it is inextricably 环环相扣 linked to it. This is part of that golden chain of events – a chain that cannot be broken.

Today we will take the time to **examine the doctrine of sanctification** 成圣. We will take two weeks to examine this because there is some degree of confusion in some Christian churches about this doctrine. As a result they rob themselves of blessings that should have been theirs. **So please pay special attention so you don't make the same mistake.**

Our headings are:

Sanctification Defined

Sanctification Displayed

Our goals are: That you **recognize that sanctification is not earned, but is a special gift of God through Christ**, and that you will let your **sanctification become evident in your life by good works**.

We believe that this true faith, being **wrought in man by the hearing of the Word of God and the operation of the Holy Spirit, sanctifies him** and makes him a new man, causing him to live a new life, and **freeing him from the bondage of sin**. Therefore it is **so far from being true** that this justifying faith **makes men remiss in a pious and holy life**, that on the contrary without it they would never do anything out of love to God, **but only out of self-love or fear of damnation** 我们相信此真信心既由听神的话以及圣灵的工作而来，就重生我们，使我们成为新人，使我们过一新的生活，释放我们脱离一切罪的捆绑。若说此称义的信心，使人疏忽过圣洁的生活，那并不是真的，若无此称义的信心，他们就不能出于爱神的心作任何事，只是出于自爱或惧怕刑罚。

Sanctification Defined

1. Let's review how you are justified.

a. God gave you faith (through his Word and Holy Spirit) to receive the truth of the Word of God. Specifically, you believed that Christ obeyed for you (active obedience) and he died for you (passive obedience).

b. When you receive the truth of God's Word you are declared justified 被宣告为义 (declared innocent of all sins – of the past, present, and future.)

2. But faith does not end when you are justified. Your faith (a gift from God) operates throughout your life. True faith **works sanctification in your life also. Justification and sanctification are never separated** – they can't be – they are part of the golden chain. Your saving faith continues as a sanctifying faith. No one becomes a Christian without starting the sanctification process.

3. So what is a good definition to sanctification? Sanctification is God making you clean (hallow) by removing the pollution **of your sin** on a continuing basis.

4. What are the differences between justification and sanctification? Justification is done **by means of the blood of Christ** for you, but sanctification is done **by means of the Holy Spirit in you**. Justification is **the work of Christ for you**, but **sanctification is the work of Christ's Spirit in you**. **Justification only changes your standing before Christ.** Sin still remains in you.

5. Let's look at the Bible's specific teaching on sanctification.

a. God promises to make his COVENANT CHILDREN'S hearts clean (circumcising行割礼 your hearts). He assumes his covenant children's hearts need cleaning out. This is God's sovereign work.

Deuteronomy 30:6 "And the LORD your God will **circumcise your heart** and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

Ezekiel 36:26 - "I will give you a **new heart** and put a **new spirit** within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

This new heart guides the Christian and give him new desires (spirit). This was much more than the initial conversion.

b. God commands his COVENANT CHILDREN to be sanctified – turning from sin in a constant battle争战.

Romans 6:1-2 What shall we say then? **Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?** 2

Certainly not! **How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?**

This Christian life consists of a lifelong battle.

Romans 6:11-12 Likewise you also, reckon看 yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

Pursuing sanctification was not a suggestion. It is an existential battle; it is a battle for survival.

Galatians 5:16 I say then: **Walk in the Spirit**, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

6. Roman Catholic and Pentecostals五旬节派, etc. don't like "a one time justification by faith alone apart from works."

But they don't reject the doctrine of justification by saying the Bible doesn't teach it. They reject the doctrine of justification because **they believe it causes men to become lazy, knowing that their sins are forgiven**. So they reason that it therefore can't be taught in the Bible. (A beautiful example of faulty circular reasoning!)

But **your justification doesn't make you lazy. The one who is lazy is lazy because he has not been justified.** On the contrary, the one who is justified becomes humble, respectful, godly, patient in conflict, prayerful, steadfast, a truth teller, and joyful in Christ. You see, if **you are drawing from the vine葡萄树 you will produce what comes from the vine. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit. You will produce works worthy of your new life.** (Galatians 5)

Titus 2:14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, **zealous for good works.**

7. What are the results of this error?

a. Roman Catholics and Pentecostals reduce the value of Christ's work. This robs Christ of his full worship and praise.

b. They must teach that a man can fall from grace if he doesn't obey Christ for a time. (You are a Christian one day, but on another day you can lose your salvation.) But if you were fully cleared of all sins (of the past, present, and future) God cannot change his mind and send you to hell. Whom Christ saves he keeps. John 10:28. God cannot punish Christ for your sins and then punish you for it also. If you have eternal life, it can't stop being eternal life.

Sanctification Displayed

Therefore it is impossible that this holy faith can be unfruitful in man; for we do not speak of a vain faith, but of such a faith which is called in Scripture a faith working through love, which excites man to the practice of those works which God has commanded in His Word. These works, as they proceed from the good root of faith, are good and acceptable in the sight of God, forasmuch as they are all sanctified by His grace. Nevertheless they are of no account towards our justification, for it is by faith in Christ that we are justified, even before we do good works; otherwise they could not be good works, any more than the fruit of a tree can be good before the tree itself is good

因此，这圣洁的信心，在人里面不结果子是不可能的，因为我们所说的不是虚伪之信，乃是圣经所说：“生发仁爱的信心”，就是能叫人行神在圣经中所

吩咐的工作。那些工作乃是由信心的善根所发出的，在神面前是善良可蒙悦纳的，因此都因神的恩典而成圣了，但不是由于我们的义。我们得称为义乃因信基督，甚至在我们能行善事之前，否则，那就不是善行了，也不是好树上所结的果子。

1. Your sanctification must be seen. Some who have argued that you do not need to do anything to be saved, for you are justified by faith alone and not by works, so they teach that you can be saved without even repenting悔改, attending worship, or showing any evidence of becoming a Christian. **They like to quote: "You are saved apart from works."** Romans 3:28, Romans 4:6. While it is true that you are not saved by your works, you cannot be saved without showing works. Works are inextricably linked to your salvation.

Illustration: When you are in the sun you see...but what makes you see? Isn't it the light? But isn't heat there with the sun? Similarly justification is accompanied by good works.

2. How then is your sanctification evident to the world? Sanctification is **seen in love**...love for God...and love for your neighbor. You will be turning from sin and turning to God and his law.

Galatians 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision 受割礼 nor uncircumcision avails anything, but **faith working through love**.

You prove you are a Christian by your love. This is why you turn to God's law.

3. That love then produces works. Obedience to his law is expressive of love.

1John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments...

Good works are visible proof of the inner working of the Holy Spirit. Sanctification is a **turning from sin and turning to God more and more**...in heart and life.

4. Specifically

a. **Your sanctification will be evident (show that you are Christian) when you ...fight to overcome addiction to alcohol, food, drugs, pornography 色情, sleep, television, video games, or sports...etc.** Surely those are severe battles that you struggle to win. And you will not fail to repent when you do fall.

b. Your sanctification will be evident **when you study God's Word and pray**. Even when you are tired you will fight to read and meditate on God's Word and to pray.

c. Your sanctification will be evident **when you want to help**. You will help others by **teaching them, giving them financial help, and spending time answering their questions**, among other things. You might want to hoard your possessions, but you will fight that urge.

d. Your sanctification will be evident when **you love your husband or wife**, and how you **nurture, teach, and discipline your children**. Your spouse or children might not always be loveable, but you will fight the desire to hate him.

e. Your sanctification will be evident in **encouraging others to bear fruit...**and you will receive the encouragement of others to bear fruit in your own life...fruit of the Spirit. You will fight the desire to envy those who do well.

f. **Your sanctification will be evident in how you worship God**...how faithful you are in doing so...in how you jump out of bed Sunday to come and worship... You will fight the desire to fall asleep during the sermon...and you will fight to concentrate on the words you sing.

g. Your sanctification **results in humility**, knowing that it is the pure work of God.

Is your sanctification evident to the world? Has your language changed enough? Are you caring?

Conclusion:

You have been declared righteous (justified) by God because Christ obeyed and suffered for you. If you have been truly saved (justified) God is sanctifying you right now. He is cleaning you of your sins. And he gives you the desire to fight against sin. Sanctification is a gift of God.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. While these are gifts, you **must not allow yourself to be complacent 沾沾自喜**.

2. Rather, you need to **respond to God's Holy Spirit working in you and show that he is working in you**. You need to daily repent of your sins, for sanctification is an ongoing process and holiness must become more and more evident in your life. You have to **read you Bible** and meditate 默想 on its truth, believe truth and obey truth. You are to regularly **spend time in prayer** for the good of yourself, your friends, and your enemies. You are to **teach your wife** and your children. You are to **worship the Lord** in your homes. You are to be **part of life of the church** and share in its blessings and sadness. Don't be a visitor; be a real part of the church. You are to **tell others about Jesus Christ**. You are to carefully **listen**

to the sermons each Sunday. **Care for others** – especially for those in God’s family. These are just **some** of the ways you will show that you are a Christian.

3. If you don’t do these things, you are treating your salvation and your Savior with contempt – something that he doesn’t take lightly.

If you are not a Christian, you need to talk to God and ask him to justify you of all your sins because Jesus died in your place, and then he will not only justify you, but he will sanctify you as well.