

## **BC 24 – Part 1–I Believe I am Sanctified**

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Sanctification flows from and is inextricably linked to the doctrine of justification. This is part of that golden chain of events in your salvation – a chain that cannot be broken once it is started. Each doctrine is firmly connected to the other doctrines. So if you are chosen by God, you will be called. If you are called, you will be justified. If you are justified, you will be sanctified. If you are sanctified, you will be glorified.

Today we will **examine the doctrine of sanctification which is linked before with justification and linked after with glorification.**

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.**

### **Sanctification Defined**

**1. Let's review how you are justified – a link in the golden chain that comes just before your sanctification.**

**God gave you faith (through his Word and Holy Spirit) to receive the truth of the Word of God.** You then believe Christ obeyed for you (active obedience) and believe he died for you (passive obedience). **When you receive the truth of God's Word you are declared justified** (declared innocent of all sins – of the past, present, and future.)

**2. Your faith does not end when you are justified; faith operates throughout your life.**

**True faith works sanctification in your life also.** Your saving faith continues as a sanctifying faith. Everyone who becomes a Christian starts the sanctification process.

**3. So what is a good definition of sanctification?**

**Sanctification is God making you clean (hallow) by removing the pollution of your sin on a continuing basis.**

**4. 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, removing your sins. Justification changes your standing before Christ, but sin still remains in you. Sanctification is the cleaning out of those sins.

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

**a. God promises to make his COVENANT CHILDREN'S hearts clean** (circumcising 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 you and gives you 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.**

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 in which God works and you work.

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

**c. Sanctification is an existential battle; it is a battle for survival. It is a fight.**

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

If you stop fighting sin, you will begin to die.

## **6. Roman Catholic and Pentecostals, don't like "a one-time justification by faith alone apart from works," and practically they reject it.**

**Why? They believe that justification (a one-time declaration by God) causes men to become lazy, if they know their sins are forgiven.** So Roman Catholics and Pentecostals argue that **since justification (a one time declaration by God) would make men lazy, that it therefore can't be in the Bible.**

**But justification doesn't make you lazy.** The one who is lazy is lazy because **he has not been justified.**

**The one who is justified becomes humble,** respectful, godly, patient in conflict, prayerful, steadfast, a truth teller, and joyful in Christ. If you are drawing from the vine 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.**

This growth is the part of your sanctification process.

**7. Because Roman Catholics rejected a one-time justification, they developed a doctrine of progressive justification (a merger between justification and sanctification).**

In this teaching they say you are justified more and more throughout your life.

**8. What's wrong with progressive justification as the Roman Catholics and others teach?**

**a. This teaching reduces the value of Christ's glorious work on the cross – one time for all times - and therefore robs him of his full worship and praise.**

**b. This teaching means Christ has to “die” often instead of “one time for all times” to continuously justify you.** This is the sinful Roman Catholics mass.

**c. This teaching means that you could be a Christian one day and not a Christian another day.** But you can't lose your salvation. You can't have eternal life and then stop having eternal life. Eternal life is eternal.

**d. This teaching denies the Golden Chain of Romans 8!** If you are called, you must be justified...and then sanctified...

**e. This teaching means God punished Christ for your sins and then he could punish you as well.** That makes God unjust.

**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.

## **1. Your sanctification must be seen.**

Some have argued you do not need to do anything to be saved, for you are justified by faith alone and not by works. Because they believe this, they also have to believe you can be saved without even repenting, or 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 also there accompanying the sun? Similarly justification is accompanied by good works.

## **2. How then is your sanctification evident to the world?**

Sanctification is **seen in love** for God and your neighbor. You will be turn from sin and turn to God and obey his law.

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

## **3. That love that God gives you 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. **You prove you are a Christian by your love.** This is why you must turn to God's law.

## **4. Specifically**

**a. Your sanctification will be evident (show that you are Christian) when you ...fight to overcome addiction to alcohol, food, drugs, pornography, sleep, television, video games, or sports...etc.** Surely these are severe battles you struggle to win. When you fail, you repent and return to God.

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. Even when you are sleepy, you will 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 in how you nurture, teach, and discipline your children. Your spouse or children might not

**always be loveable – and they may be downright rotten**, 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. Good works will be on your “to do” list every day.

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...and listen to the prayer so you can agree and say “amen” in the end.

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

### **Conclusion:**

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

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

**1. Since sanctification is a gift from the Most High God, don't be complacent with it.** You would not do that with a gift from your spouse and you surely won't want to do that with a gift from God.

**2. So let God's Holy Spirit work in you and show he is working in you.** Daily repent of your sins, for sanctification is an ongoing process and holiness must become more and more evident in your life. **Read you Bible** and meditate on its truth. Believe truth and obey truth. Regularly **spend time in prayer** for the good of yourself, your friends, and your enemies. **Teach your wife** and your children. **Worship the Lord** in your homes. 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. **Tell others about Jesus Christ.** Carefully **listen to the sermons** each Sunday. **Care for others** – especially for those in God's family. **Is your sanctification evident to the world?**

**3. When you do these things you show how precious your Savior and your salvation are!**

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 the place of sinners, and then he will not only justify you, but he will sanctify you as well.