

The Inside Job: How God Makes Us More Like Christ
Week 1: What is Sanctification?

INTRODUCTION:

Five Key Questions:

1. What is sanctification or Christian holiness?
2. How does sanctification work?
3. What is the relationship between a Christian's justification and sanctification?
4. What roles does my obedience play in sanctification?
5. What are some of the Bible's motivations to holiness?

I. WHAT IS SANCTIFICATION OR CHRISTIAN HOLINESS?

A. Wrong Views:

Moral reformation:

Self-denial:

Entire sanctification:

Sanctification as optional:

B. The Biblical View:

Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q35 - "What is sanctification?" - *Sanctification is the work of God's free grace by which we are renewed throughout in the image of God and are enabled more and more to die to sin and live to righteousness.*

1. Sanctification is the work of God's free grace:

- a. Ezekiel 36:27
- b. Phil 2:13
- c. Hebrews 13:20-21

2. Sanctification is God's free work of grace that renews us throughout in the image of God

- a. 2 Cor 5:17
- b. Eph 4:23-24
- c. Col 3:8-10

3. Sanctification is God's free work of grace that enables us more and more to die to sin and live to righteousness

- a. Ezekiel 36:25-27
- b. Romans 6:4, 6, 12-14
- c. 2 Corinthians 7:1

- Positional - **1 Cor 1:2, 1 Cor 6:11, Acts 20:32**

*Positionally the believer has been placed into spiritual union with Christ. That is a definitive act. The ongoing result is a vital living union whereby a believer possesses spiritual life and holiness. – Erroll Hulse, **The Doctrine and Practice of Holiness, 82***

- Progressive - the sense we're thinking of this morning

II. HOW DOES SANCTIFICATION WORK?

=> Phil 2:12-13; 2 Cor 3:18.

A. Fundamentally Internal and Supernatural:

*In the process of progressive sanctification, God is working in us not just to **work**, but also to **will**. He is working even on our desires. – Michael Riccardi, **Sanctification: The Christian's Pursuit of God-Given Holiness, 9***

*[Sanctification] does not consist exclusively in a series of a new kind of **acts**. It is the making the tree good, in order that the fruit may be good. It involves an **essential change of character**. [Just] as regeneration is...a new birth, a new creation, a quickening or communicating a new life,...so sanctification in its essential nature is not holy acts, but such a change in the state of the soul, that sinful acts become more infrequent, and holy acts more and more habitual and controlling. – Charles Hodge, **Systematic Theology, 3:226***

B. A Sovereign Work of the Spirit of God:

[The Holy Spirit] is the efficient cause of all holiness and sanctification – quickening, enlightening, purifying the souls of his saints. – John Owen, ‘Of Communion with God’, Works 2:199

C. The Spirit Employs Means in Sanctifying the Believers

If the Holy Spirit is the agent of this great work of effecting holiness in the Christian, do we just sit back and do nothing? Are we entirely passive, depending upon the sovereign whims of the Spirit to sanctify us as He pleases? Does it fall to us merely to relax and yield and surrender – to let go and let God? - Michael Riccardi, Sanctification: The Christian’s Pursuit of God-Given Holiness

III. WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN JUSTIFICATION AND SANCTIFICATION?

JUSTIFICATION (Positionally holy)	SANCTIFICATION (Progressively holy)
<i>Affects our legal standing</i>	<i>Affects our internal condition</i>
<i>Happens once for all time</i>	<i>Continuous throughout the Christian life</i>
<i>Entirely God’s work</i>	<i>We cooperate with the Holy Spirit</i>
<i>Perfect in this life</i>	<i>Imperfect in this life</i>
<i>The same in all Christians</i>	<i>Greater in some than in others</i>

Union with Christ, simply defined, is the relationship between the regenerate soul and Christ by which the believer is in Christ and Christ is in the believer by faith. - KAB

“Union with Christ is not a step in the application of redemption...it underlies EVERY step of the application of redemption” - John Murray, Redemption Accomplished and Applied

“Christlikeness is possible, but not by merely working with Jesus or simply imitating his example. Only by knowing our position in Jesus can we begin to live like Jesus.” – Kevin DeYoung, The Hole in Our Holiness

IV. WHAT ROLE DOES MY EFFORT PLAY IN SANCTIFICATION?

The Believer’s Effort in Sanctification: 1 Cor 15:10; Colossians 1:29; 1 Tim 4:7-8; Hebrews 12:14, 13:16

“When it comes to killing my sin, I don’t wait passively for the miracle of sin-killing to happen to me – I act the miracle!” - John Piper, I Act the Miracle

A. Spirit-empowered:

B. Gospel-driven:

C. Faith-fueled:

V. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BIBLE’S MOTIVATIONS TO HOLINESS?

1. Personal holiness is God’s requirement for dwelling with Him – Matthew 5:8, Heb 12:14, 1 John 3:2-3
2. Personal holiness is gratitude for God’s mercy – Romans 12:1
3. Personal holiness shows our love for Christ – John 14:15
4. Personal holiness is mirroring who God is – 1 Peter 1:14-16
5. Personal holiness is tied to assurance – 2 Peter 1:10, 1 John 2:3-4, 5:3-4
6. Personal holiness is a reminder this world is not our home – 1 Peter 2:11
7. Personal holiness honours those who have gone before us in the race of faith – Heb 12:1
8. Personal holiness leads to a fullness of love and joy – John 15:10-11