

CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE BASICS

GBC EQUIPPING HOUR | SEPTEMBER 1, 2019



Class 17: Introduction to Salvation – Sanctification

PURPOSE: To refine the categorical (topical) way we understand the Scriptures helping us conform to Christ.

I. Addressing Two Elephants Standing in the Living Room

A. Easy Believism

“*Easy believism*” makes obedience a desirous option, but it is not a must. This is for keeping one’s justification by faith the main thing without a salvation by works mindset creeping in. Genuine Christian converts can and do act carnally for long periods of time -just look at the church of Corinth! Or look at the Apostle Peter! (Also, Romans 7).

- *Rejoinder 1:* In 2 Corinthians 2 the church of Corinth also knew how to administer church discipline, unlike many churches in America today. We may be worse than them.
- *Rejoinder 2:* If *easy believism* is to be embraced then the warning passages of Matthew 7:21-23, 2 Corinthians 13:5, Hebrews 6:4-8 and Revelation 2-3 must be taken as non-literal overstatements, not having real teeth.

B. Perfectionism

Perfectionism insists that radical changes in a person’s lifestyle be seen at the point of his/her conversion without any backsliding.

- *Rejoinder:* If the early church had such a radical lifestyle change, there would be no reason for the church letters to call “brothers” to repentance; but the opposite is true.

II. The Time Aspects of Sanctification

The New Testament has been known to make reference to salvation in three tenses: past (Rom. 5:8; Titus 3:4-5), present (1 Cor. 1:18, Phil. 2:12-13) and future (Rom. 5:9-10, Eph. 1:14). While Christianity puts the major emphasis on the front end, the back end (present-to-future) must not be dismissed. Beyond “justification” comes “sanctification” referring to the believer’s body and soul being set apart to God.

A. Positional Sanctification At Conversion

But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, **through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.**

-2 Thessalonians 2:13

And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the **body of Jesus Christ once for all.**

-Hebrews 10:10

B. Progressive Sanctification After Conversion

For this is the will of God, **your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality;**

-1 Thessalonians 4:3

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality,¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.¹¹ **And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified,** you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

-1 Corinthians 6:9-11

III. The Experience Aspects of Sanctification

Is making sanctification “something that I must do” replacing the doctrine of justification and eternal security? No, not if we see the combined experience of justification, assurance and sanctification as the work of the Holy Spirit and the manifestation of God’s effectual call.

A. Passive: What Happened to Me

he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but **according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,** ⁶ **whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,** ⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

-Titus 3:5-7

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

-Jesus’ prayer to the Father for his own in John 17:17

B. Active: What I Must Do

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,** ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

-Philippians 2:12-13

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, **to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God,** which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

-Romans 12:1-2

IV. Where Do We Go From Here?

A. Keep Justification Before Sanctification

B. Confess Sin to God and to One Another

C. Take Personal Ownership of the Sanctification of the Church.

Christian Doctrine Basics Course Outline:

- Sin – Opposite Holiness
- Sin – “Original Sin”
- Sin – the Effects (Two Deaths)
- Salvation – Election
- Salvation – “Repent and Believe!”
- Salvation - Justification
- Salvation – Sanctification (Two Aspects)
- Salvation – Sanctifications to Glorification