



What is Sanctification (and Perseverance)?
Selected Scriptures
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I. Introduction

- A. Health is evidenced by growth - Babies, growth and sonogram technology
- B. This is precisely what we are called to do – grow in grace:
 - 1. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love (Ephesians 4:15-16).
 - 2. Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits (Hebrews 6:1-3, ESV).
 - 3. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen (2 Peter 3:18, ESV).

II. Proposition

- A. God has created us to reflect his glory and through Christ he has regenerated us and is renewing us to be conformed to the image of Christ.

III. Exposition

- A. **What is God's desire for His people?**
 - 1. Genesis 1:26-28 – imago dei (godly offspring – Malachi 2:15)
 - 2. Genesis 3 – sin has distorted the image of God in man, but not eradicated it (Genesis 5:1-4; 9:6)
 - 3. Jesus is the true image of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15), the exact imprint of God's nature (Heb. 1:3).
 - 4. God desires to conform us to the image of His Son (Romans 8:29).
 - a. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:18).
 - b. We have already talked about regeneration, justification, now we want to see how God sanctifies.

B. What is sanctification?

1. Positional sanctification – through Christ we are ALREADY sanctified (1 Cor. 1:2; 6:11).
2. Progressive sanctification – by grace through faith, we are NOW being sanctified (Heb. 10:14).
 - a. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own (Philippians 3:12).

C. We must persevere in pursuing holiness to the end will be saved.

1. Those who persevere to the end will be saved; those who do not persevere will not.
 - a. Those who do not persevere prove they were not born again to begin with.
 - b. Those who are genuinely born again will persevere to the end.

D. How are we sanctified and how do we persevere in sanctification to the end?

1. Lest you become discouraged by thinking you must sanctify yourself in your power, consider the promise that God has predestined us for sanctification:
 - a. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers (Romans 8:29).
 - 1). God is the one who sustains us (1 Corinthians 1:4-9).
2. Therefore, He will work in us to bring about our sanctification:
 - a. 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, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure (Philippians 2:12-13).
3. And because He is God He will bring to completion what He has begun:
 - a. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:6).
4. Now, you may be thinking, "What is my role?" "Is this 'let go and let God'?" No, we must fight, but our fight is one of faith.
 - a. Of course, we are kept from sin by fear from the warnings from God (Hebrews).
 - b. But positively, we fight sin by faith in the promises of God in the power of the Spirit (1 Pet 1:3-9).
 - 1). Acts 26:18 (ESV) to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'
5. Here is a most wonderful promise to cling to, meditate upon and memorize:
 - a. His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire (2 Peter 1:3-4).

D. How do we fight by faith – sanctification?

1. Let's start to put this together - Colossians 3:1-11
2. Lets take a few of these:
 - a. Covetousness (cheating, stealing):

- 1). Warnings – Luke 12:15
 - 2). Promises – Matthew 6:19-34
 - 3). Outcome – unbelief – stealing, cheating, embezzling . . .
 - 4). Outcome – belief – security, contentment, freedom from anxiety
- b. Sexual immorality:
- 1). Warning – Colossians 3:6
 - 2). Promise – Genesis 2:18ff; 1 Corinthians 7:1-5
 - 3). Unbelief outcome – adultery, fornication, self-satisfaction . . .
 - 4). Belief outcome – satisfaction in Christ and the wife of your youth, patience in waiting . . .
3. Let's think of some other areas that are not sin but where we might be tempted to sin:
- a. Suffering (e.g., illness):
- 1). Promise – 2 Corinthians 4:16-18
 - 2). Belief Outcome – 2 Corinthians 5:1-10
- b. Persecution:
- 1). Promise mixed with warning – 2 Timothy 2:8-13
 - 2). Promise – Matthew 5:11-12
 - 3). Belief Outcome – James 1:2-4, 12
4. Fighting by faith requires that we saturate ourselves in the Word of God (Romans 12:1-2).
- a. So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation- if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good (1 Peter 2:1-3, ESV).
- 1). This means reading, memorizing, studying, meditating on the word of God!

F. How do I make my calling and election sure?

1. Do you trust Christ for your salvation (Romans 10:9-11)? Look to the promises!
2. Do you show fruit, evidence of your salvation (John 15:1-8)?
 - a. And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God (Colossians 1:9-10, ESV).
3. Does the Spirit testify with your spirit that you are a child of God (Romans 8:12-17).

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