

## #19 THE DOCTRINE OF SANCTIFICATION

30 PRACTICAL DOCTRINES YOU NEED TO KNOW | DR. RANDY WHITE

### WHAT IS SANCTIFICATION?

- Sanctification is the state of holiness judicially declared on a saved individual at the moment of salvation.
- Three verses in 1 Corinthians show the sanctified state of the believer - 1:2, 1:30, 6:11

### LIKE MANY DOCTRINES, THE DOCTRINE OF SANCTIFICATION HAS BEEN NEEDLESSLY COMPLICATED

- The Catholic/Protestant Doctrine of Sanctification.
  - “By baptism we are transformed in Christ, making us God’s adopted children, brothers and sisters to his son Jesus, and heirs to Heaven if we persevere to the end of our lives. This transformation is brought about by God’s grace, which is his life in us. Only God is holy, and we are holy only to the extent he actually dwells in our souls, which is called the state of sanctifying grace.” Msgr. Lawrence Moran & Ronald J. Eldred (<http://reasonablecatholicism.com/resources/Justification/The%20Catholic%20Understanding%20of%20Justification.pdf>)
  - While Catholics and Protestants differ on justification, their definitions of sanctification are the same: a process of growing in the Lord.
- The Holiness Movement Doctrine of Sanctification.
  - This movement emphasizes a “Second Blessing” which enables a believer to experience complete freedom from sin.
  - In this theological system, a believer becomes “sanctified” by devotion, silence, Christian works, abstinence from sin, etc.
  - Groups include old Methodists, Wesleyans, Nazarene, Quaker, Christian and Missionary Alliance, and some Baptists.
- The Evangelical Doctrine of Sanctification.
  - Evangelicals take a “both/and” approach. The believer is both sanctified at Salvation and progressing in their sanctification.

### SANCTIFICATION IS A MATTER THAT IS COMPLETELY IN CHRIST

- Jesus Christ has fully paid for our sins – 1 John 2:2
- Jesus Christ is the righteousness / holiness / sanctification of the believer.
  - Hebrews 2:11
  - Hebrews 10:10
  - Hebrews 10:14
  - Hebrews 13:12
  - John 17:19
- “Imputed” sanctification is not foreign to the Scriptures:
  - In the dispensation of the law, the *sacrifice* was not “holy” but was *made holy* by God.
    - Exodus 30:26-29 (especially v. 29)
    - Matthew 23:17-19
    - If an altar can sanctify a sacrifice, can God sanctify whatever He wants?
  - Under the Law, sacrifices sanctified the flesh – Hebrews 9:13
    - If the blood of bulls and goats would do that, can the blood of Jesus do much more?
  - Food has been sanctified by God – 1 Tim. 4:4-5
    - If God can sanctify food, can He sanctify people?

### SANCTIFICATION IS NOT THE SAME AS CHRISTIAN MATURITY OR PERSONAL HOLINESS

- Jesus is our holiness, and He wants us to live holy lives. The living of a holy life is not our sanctification but is the desire of those who recognize the sanctification granted to us.
- The Corinthians – 1 Cor. 1:2, 6:11 -vs- 1 Cor. 5:1
- Sanctification is a position, not sinless living
  - What is called “Holy” in the Bible?
    - Apostles – Ephesians 3:5
    - Women – 1 Peter 3:5
    - A city - Matthew 4:5
  - Are these people/things sinless? No! But they are positionally sanctified.
- The idea that we *are* sanctified, and we are *being* sanctified, and someday *will become* sanctified, simply doesn’t make logical sense. And, since the Bible doesn’t use this terminology, we should not confuse sanctification with holy living and Christian maturity.