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Holiness, chapter 2

Three Major Considerations

- The true nature of sanctification
- The visible marks of sanctification
- The similarities and differences between justification and sanctification

The True Nature of Sanctification

“...that inward spiritual work which the Lord Jesus Christ works in a man by the Holy Ghost when he calls him to be a true believer. He not only washes him from his sins in his own blood, but he also *separates* him from his natural love of sin and the world, puts a new principle in his heart, and makes him practically godly in life.” – p. 22

This means...

There is no such thing as a true Christian who is not sanctified.

True Christians are objectively 'sanctified' and yet are also progressively *being* sanctified.

"To the church of God...to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints." – 1 Corinthians 1:2

"But because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us...sanctification [from God]."

– 1 Corinthians 1:30

"He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source..." – Hebrews 2:11

This means...

Sanctification is a visible mark of having been born again.

“Every tree is known by its fruit.” – Luke 6:44

“Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.” – 1 John 3:2-3

“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.” – Romans 8:14

This means...

Sanctification requires regeneration, takes effort, and involves struggle.

“Finally, then brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you in the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, your sanctification...” – 1 Thessalonians 4:1-3

“For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.” – Galatians 5:17

This means...

Sanctification does not justify, but it pleases God and is absolutely necessary.

“For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight...” – Romans 3:20

“...such sacrifices are pleasing to God”; “...this is well-pleasing to the Lord”; “...things that are pleasing in his sight.” (Heb 13:16; Col 3:20; 1 John 3:22)

“...and those who have done good to the resurrection of life...” – John 5:29

“Strive for...holiness, without which no one will see the Lord” – Hebrews 12:14

The Visible Marks of Sanctification

What it is not:

- Mere talk
- Temporary feelings
- Outward formalism
- Renunciation of social duties
- Outward performance

The Visible Marks of Sanctification

What it is:

- Habitual respect to God's law, Christ's will, and Paul's instructions.
- Habitual attention to the active graces of Christ and the passive graces of Christianity

Justification and Sanctification: *Similarities*

Both:

- Come from God's grace
- Are part of Christ's work in saving us
- Are found in the same persons
- Begin at the same time
- Are necessary for salvation

Justification and Sanctification: *Differences*

- Justification is a *reckoning*; sanctification is a *making*
- Justification involves an alien righteousness
- Justification has no place for our works
- Justification is finished and complete and does not increase or grow
- Justification relates to our *person*; sanctification to our *nature*
- Justification gives us a title for heaven; sanctification prepares us for heaven
- Justification is an act of God about us; sanctification is a work of God within us

Justification and Sanctification: WLC

Q. 77. Wherein do justification and sanctification differ?

A. Although sanctification be inseparably joined with justification, yet they differ, in that God in justification imputeth the righteousness of Christ; in sanctification his Spirit infuseth grace, and enableth to the exercise thereof; in the former, sin is pardoned; in the other, it is subdued: the one doth equally free all believers from the revenging wrath of God, and that perfectly in this life, that they never fall into condemnation; the other is neither equal in all, nor in this life perfect in any, but growing up to perfection.

Some Application

Examine yourself

“If unsanctified souls can be saved and go to heaven, the Bible is not true”

Begin with Christ, and continually go on as you’ve begun

“Believers who seem at a standstill are generally neglecting close communion with Jesus.”

Expect struggle

“The more light we have, the more we shall see our imperfection.”