

THE WESTMINSTER CONFSSION OF
FAITH
XIII. OF SANCTIFICATION

Second Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC

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I. THE GRACE OF SANCTIFICATION

They, who are once effectually called, and regenerated, having a new heart, and a new spirit created in them, are further sanctified, really and personally, through the virtue of Christ's death and resurrection, by his Word and Spirit dwelling in them: the dominion of the whole body of sin is destroyed, and the several lusts thereof are more and more weakened and mortified; and they more and more quickened and strengthened in all saving graces, to the practice of true holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.

I. THE GRACE OF SANCTIFICATION

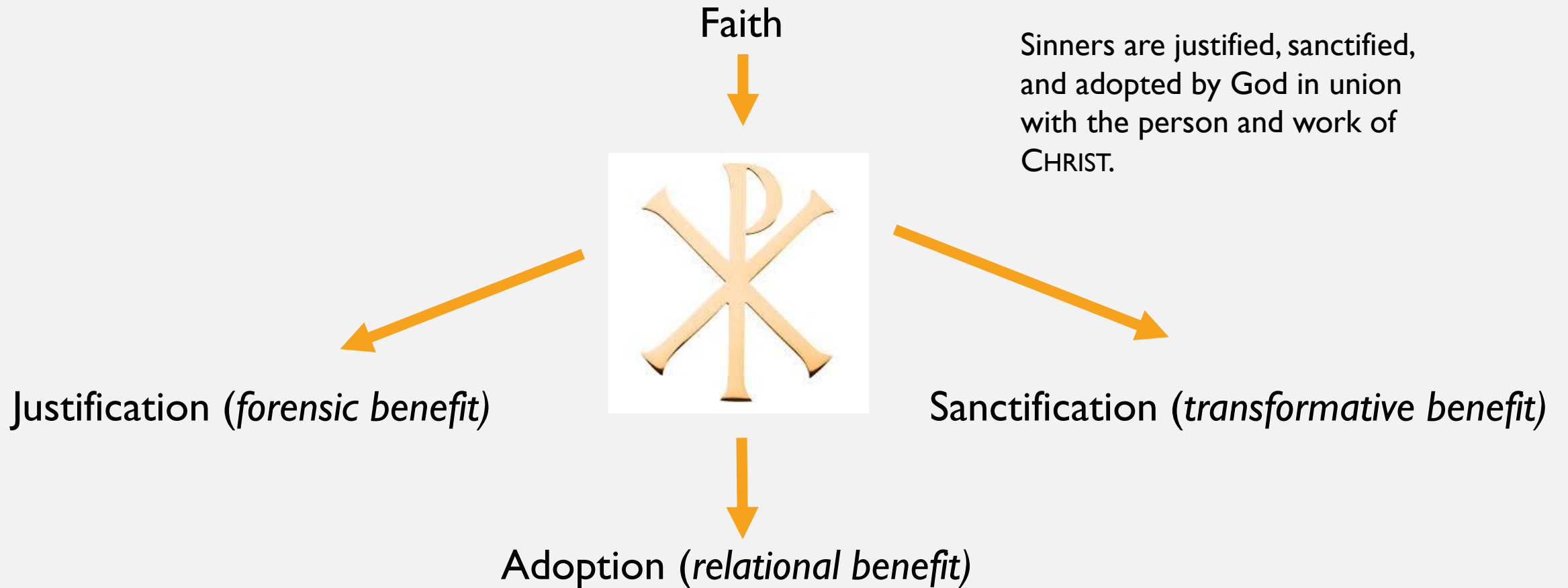
- Christ's People Made Holy
 - To be effectually called and regenerated, receiving a new heart and a new spirit within, is to begin the life-long process of sanctification – becoming holy.
 - “God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth” (2 Thess. 2:13).
- Christ's Sanctifying Work
 - Sanctified “through the virtue of Christ's death and resurrection.”
 - The cross of Christ sanctifies us by ending our former life in death; Christ's resurrection sanctifies us by the power of new life.
- Sanctification is needed by and provided to every Christian.
 - “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” (2 Cor. 3:18).

I. THE GRACE OF SANCTIFICATION

- Romans 6 on Sanctification

- “Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:3-4). *Conversion = death of old sinful life, beginning of new holy life.*
- “For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin” (Rom. 6:5-6). *Cross of Christ frees us from bondage to sin via death.*
- “For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God” (Rom. 6:7-10). *Christ’s resurrection provides new life to live for God.*
- “So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 6:11). *We therefore accept our death and resurrection in Christ and live no longer for sin but for God in Christ.*

I. THE GRACE OF SANCTIFICATION



But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, . . . So that we might receive adoption as sons" (Gal. 4:4-5).

I. THE GRACE OF SANCTIFICATION

Sanctification as the Dominion of Sin Destroyed

- “The dominion of the whole body of sin is destroyed.”
 - *Mind*: “be transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Rom. 12:2)
 - *Heart*: “I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. . . And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules” (Eze. 36:26-27).
 - *Hands*: “Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God” (Gal. 5:19-21).
- “Lusts are more and more weakened and mortified.”
 - “those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” (Gal. 5:24).
 - “For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. . . . Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry” (Col. 3:3-5).
- “By the Word and Spirit dwelling in them”

I. THE GRACE OF SANCTIFICATION

Strengthened in All Saving Graces

- We are “renewed in the whole man after the image of God” (WSC, 35).
 - “Every single aspect of the human personality is affected. Before conversion, we are totally depraved. After conversion we are totally sanctified. This affects our desires, our ambitions and our emotions.” (D. Macleod).
 - “You were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness” (Eph. 4:21-24).
 - “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law” (Gal. 5:22-23).
- “To the practice of true holiness, without which no man will see the Lord.”
 - “Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord” (Heb. 12:14).

II. STRUGGLE WITH SIN

Thus sanctification is throughout, in the whole man; yet imperfect in this life, there abiding still some remnants of corruption in every part; whence ariseth a continual and irreconcilable war, the flesh lusting against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh.

- Sanctification is designed for our entire selves and whole life
 - “Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it” (1 Thess. 5:23-24).
- Sanctification is imperfect in this life
 - “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us” (1 Jn. 1:8).
 - “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” (Phil. 3:12).
 - “To put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds” (Eph. 4:22-23).

II. STRUGGLE WITH SIN

- There abides still some remnants of corruption in every part; whence arises a continual and irreconcilable war.”
 - “The flesh wars against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh” (Gal. 5:17) – A struggle with sin is *normal* and *inevitable* in the Christian life.
 - The importance of the *mind*
 - “For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace” (Rom. 8:6).
 - Need to live *carefully*:
 - “let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us” (Heb. 12:1).
 - A *desperate* struggle
 - I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. . . . For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. . . . For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am!” (Romans 7:15-24).

III. THE VICTORY OF GRACE

In which war, although the remaining corruption, for a time, may much prevail; yet, through the continual supply of strength from the sanctifying Spirit of Christ, the regenerate part doth overcome; and so, the saints grow in grace, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

- Sin may prevail *for a time*.
 - “I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members” (Rom. 7:23).

III. THE VICTORY OF GRACE

- Growing in Grace
 - “The regenerate part overcomes,” by “the continual supply of strength from the sanctifying Spirit of Christ”
 - Bunyan’s “man behind the fireplace”
 - Our Savior “pulls on the rope.”
 - “Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord?” (Rom. 7:24-25).
 - The saints grow in grace
 - “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit” (Mt. 12:33).
 - “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 Cor. 3:18).
- Perfecting holiness in the fear of God.
 - “One thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 3:13-14).