

Theology Simply Explained — WSC35 “God's Work to Fit Us for Glory”

Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 34—especially explaining how God works to make us more and more fit for glory.

Q35. What is sanctification? ***Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.***

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

All right, catechism question this week shorter. Catechism question this week. It's number 35. What is sanctification? The answer is sanctification, is the work of God's free Grace whereby we are renewed. And the whole man after the image of God, And are enabled more and more to die into sin and to live.

Unto righteousness. And so, sanctification is a work that God does in those who have been Um, Granted right standing with him. And adoption as his children. In other words, They are. Qualified for Glory. And they have a, To Glory. But they are not yet fit for Glory. And so, the Lord In his work of sanctification between the time that he brings a sinner into, right standing with him through faith in Christ.

And

And adopts. The redeemed sinner as his child. The Lord Jesus Christ between that time and the time that we come into Uh, the fullness of our adoption. The the receipt to the final part of our adoption, which Romans chapter 8 calls the Redemption of our bodies. The Lord is doing a sanctifying work.

Especially. During the course of our life on Earth in which he is growing Us in Holiness. When we come to the end of our life on Earth, We are made perfect in Holiness, as we'll hear about, in answer, 37. So, there is this work that has to be done and this work It has to be God's work.

Now. We are active in it. Not passive. And our justification. Let's uh, God Alone who is active? We Faith is the alone instrument because it rests entirely. On. What God does? What Christ does? Of justification. Faith is not the alone instrument of sanctification. And yet Grace is the alone power.

Of sanctification. So there are many means of Grace by, which God But which God exercises? His power. Uh, in us and upon us. And there are many things that we are called to do in attending upon The means of his grace. Which, of course, even our attending upon them depends upon his grace.

And so it is a work of God's free Grace. We do not Earn or achieve. Sanctification. It is not merited by us. It is not accomplished by us. It is earned by Christ. If you are justified, your sanctification has been earned. Uh but it also is accomplished by the Triune God, through our Union with Christ.

As applied to us by his holy spirit, so it's a work. Of God's free Grace. Something that goes for the rest of your life. And something that, although, Faith is not the alone. Instrument still Grace is the alone power. Of our sanctification. And you hear the, Um, Approaching Glory language.

He says whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God. Uh, we no longer belong to this world. We are Uh, no longer in the first atom, in whom we had fallen. Now, we are in the last atom. We are in an atom of a new creation.

We are in Jesus who Is is the image of God and as we are conformed to Christ, we are renewed in the image of God. The more and more we are made like Christ until at last as God has predestined, those about whom, he had set his love. Unless he had predestined them to be until we are at last conformed to the image of his son.

And, Then we will have. Um, this work will have been completed. Of our being renewed in the whole man. After the image of God, in other words, there's no part of sinfulness. That is not subject to. Uh, more and more dying unto sin. And there's no part of righteousness that may be left out of More and more living unto righteousness.

And so, we are to more and more die, unto sin, and more and more live. Uh, unto righteousness, but we don't have ability in This is why it is a work of God's grace to enable us to sustain us to hold us up. To give us, not only ability but even desire.

God tells us to work out our Salvation with fear and trembling But we don't care for salvation unless God works in. We don't fear or tremble, unless God works in. But praise God, he says to work out our salvation with fear and trembling It is God. Who works in you both to Will.

So he gives you the desire. And he gives you the right sword of Desire. That this is a great and holy task. Of working out your salvation. And working those things that are pleasing to God. It is God who works in us both to Will and to work. According to his good pleasure.

Now, in the latter part of the catechism answer, it says we are enabled more and more to die into sin. And this death Works two ways. First of all, Uh, the one who was under the Mastery of sin or in bondage to sin is dead. In our Union, with Christ that person died.

And so sin has no claim upon us. We have been released. From our bondage to sin because we are dead to it. When sin. Within you or from without you is offered to you. Uh, you can con conscientiously intentionally say, no. I am dead to sin. It has no claim upon me.

I must not. I no longer offer. Myself or any part of who I am to sin. I and all of who I am belong to the Lord Jesus. Belong. I and all of who I am belong to God. You have another Master now. And there's nothing in your whole life or existence.

No aspect of who you are, none of your time, none of your energy. Uh, none of your abilities desires, emotions that may be offered to, you are dead to sin. Don't offer yourself or any part of who you are to sin anymore? No. All of it must be offered entirely to God, offer yourselves.

As slaves to God, for righteousness, present, the members of who you are, every part of who you are. Unto God for righteousness. So that's where the language comes here, more enabled more and more to die into sin and to live unto righteousness. But the scripture talks also, not only of our dying into sin, but of our pudding to death, the Deeds of the body of our killing sin, This means not just Trying not to do particular sins.

It means attacking what remains of your former sinfulness, your former nature, your you still have sinfulness what remains of your original nature. Attacking it

entirely. And so suffocating. The remaining flesh and starving. The remaining flesh. Every time we indulge. Sinful desire, or thought, every time we tolerate it accept its presence.

We are giving our remaining sin air and food and water. We must not give Aid or Comfort to the enemy. We should suffocate strangle. Starve. Kill. Remaining sin. And remaining sin as a whole and therefore, yes, we are to put to death. Particular sins and especially sinful habits that Are clinging to our Our mind or our heart.

But just as we are entirely dead to sin and must offer. No, part of who we are unto it. So also, we must kill Remaining sinfulness and not permit any part of it. Uh, to have life or acceptance with us. No quarter. Is the cry. For the battle. With remaining sin.

In such a life, of course, again. Can only be left. By the grace of God. Praise God, we are called to work and to fight and to kill. The sanctification ultimately is not the work of our efforts. It is the work of God's free Grace. It is something God is doing.

And therefore, it is something that most most certainly will be. Done. Even when we say, thy will be done on Earth as it is in heaven, We are not only praying that we would do according to his will, We are rejoicing that God does according to his will and asking him to do his will And the scripture says this is God's will for you.

Your sanctification. And praise God. He is the one. Who works in? The work that he began in. He will surely bring to completion. Philippians 1. For. So what is sanctification? Sanctification is the work of God's free Grace. Whereby, we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God.

And are enabled more and more. To die unto sin. And to live unto righteousness.