

Providence Presbyterian Church
Men's Bible Study – September 18, 2008
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Sanctification: Fighting, Flourishing, Finishing in the Christian Life

Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature. The old things have passed away; behold, new things have come. -- 2 Corinthians 5:17

Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God. -- 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body that you should obey its lusts, and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law, but under grace. – Romans 6:12-14

Introduction

Why a study like this?

Will this have anything to do with my day-to-day life?

How will this address and interact with struggles in my life like anger, pride, lust, greed, self-control, etc.?

Definition

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.

Westminster Shorter Catechism, A 35.

I. Sanctification that is radical and definitive

They who are effectually called and regenerated, having a new heart and a new spirit created in them, are farther sanctified really and personally, through the virtue of Christ's death and resurrection, by his word and the Spirit dwelling in them; the dominion of the whole body of sin is destroyed... – Westminster Confession of Faith, 13.1

- A. There is a change in relationship
- B. There is a radical transformation
- C. There is a real and powerful union with Christ

II. Sanctification that is radical, but progressive

...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. – WCF 13.1

A. This sanctification involves “killing” sin – mortification

...for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. – Romans 8:13

B. This sanctification comes by way of renewal.

Be transformed by the renewing of your mind. –Romans 12:2

..that in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. – Ephesians 4:22-24

C. This sanctification comes by way of growth in grace.

but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love. – Ephesians 4:15-16

III. Sanctification that engages us in the battle

This sanctification is throughout the whole man, yet imperfect in this life; there abideth 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. In which war, although the remaining corruption for a time may much prevail, yet, throughout 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.

Westminster Confession of Faith, 13.2 and 3.

A. Ephesians 6:10-20

B. Philippians 2:12-13

Closing