

Providence Presbyterian Church
Men's Bible Study
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Rev. Ronnie Rowe

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

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. WSC, A35.

Introduction

Even if we understand this doctrine and the ramifications of it, are there any realistic expectations of enjoying the blessings and benefits of it presently?

It is important to grasp the reality of the foundation and basis from which our sanctification flows. This should give the believer further confidence and hope concerning the Lord's desires and intentions for us.

I. A change of standing or status

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. – Romans 5:1–2

*And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus...
-Ephesians 2:1-6*

II. A change of family privileges and influences

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. -John 1:12

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God., and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. – Romans 8:14-17

*And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts,, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.
Galatians 4:6-7*

III. A change of masters and compulsions

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....But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. – Romans 6:6-18 (also John 8:31-36)

For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. -2 Corinthians 5:14-15

IV. A change of ownership and occupancy

*Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in you body.
1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (also Acts 20:28)*

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you...In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. – John 14:16-17, 20

V. A change of citizenship

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. – 1 Peter 2:9

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. – Colossians 1:13-14

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. – Philippians 3:20-21

Conclusions

*Precisely the same is true of the teaching of this chapter. The great mistake many of us make is to look only at our sin and failure, and then ask, a little despairingly, What can I do? But our need is not to do, it is first of all to understand what God has done. To see that what he has made us through his Son is a man or woman who has died with Christ to sin’s dominion and has been raised with Christ to newness of life. We are those over whom sin has no longer any dominion. – Sinclair Ferguson, *The Christian Life*.*