

**“Milk and Meat” – Answering Questions on Christianity**  
Life Bible-Presbyterian Church Adult Sunday School

**DOCTRINE OF SALVATION – Part 5** [Ref: Bible Doctrine, Vol 2, James Beeke]

WSC Q. 35: 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.

**1. Sanctification is a gradual, progressive, lifelong process.**

- a. **Aim of Sanctification:** make Christians more like Christ. Eph 4:12-13 “For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: **13** Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.”
- b. Justification declares them legally as sons of God through the death of Christ.
- c. Sanctification makes them more like their Lord Jesus Christ through Christ’s life, Christ’s example and His Spirit dwelling in them.

**2. What God does:**

- **1 Thes 5:23** And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- **Jude 24** Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present *you* faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy. To the only wise God our Saviour ...

**3. What the believer does:**

- a. Sanctification is the will of God for every believer. **1 Thes 4:3-4** For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Sanctification is not only a gracious gift of God, but also a loving command.
- b. While sanctification is the Holy Spirit’s work, the believer has a two-fold responsibility to put off the old man, and put on the new man:

Responsibility of Believer	Example Texts
<p><b>1. Mortify</b> (<i>put to death</i>) <b>the old, sinful nature</b></p> <p>“put off the old man”</p>	<p>a) Flee from and resist all sin and temptation;</p> <p>b) Avoid all means and places which promote evil</p> <p><b>1 Peter 2:11</b> Dearly beloved, I beseech <i>you</i> as strangers and pilgrims, <u>abstain from fleshly lusts</u>, which war against the soul; <b>Col 3:5</b> <u>Mortify</u> therefore your members which are upon the earth; <u>fornication</u> {sexual immorality}, <u>uncleanness</u> {impurity}, <u>inordinate affection</u> {lust}, <u>evil concupiscence</u> {sinful lusts}, and <u>covetousness</u> {greed}, which is <u>idolatry</u>; <b>Eph 4:20-22</b> But ye have not so learned Christ; If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: That ye <u>put off</u> concerning the former conversation <u>the old man</u>, which is <u>corrupt</u> according to the <u>deceitful lusts</u>; <b>Prov 1:10</b> My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. <b>Prov 4:14</b> Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil <i>men</i>.</p>
<p><b>2. Renew the new, holy nature</b></p> <p>“put on the new man”</p>	<p>Use all means of grace which promote spiritual health and growth – the Bible, church worship, prayer, preaching, teaching, reading, sacraments (baptism, Lord’s Supper), fellowship.</p> <p><b>Col. 3:16</b> Let the <u>word of Christ dwell in you richly</u> in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. <b>Eph 4:23-24</b> And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye <u>put on the new man</u>, which after God is created in <u>righteousness and true holiness</u>. <b>Rom 6:13</b> Neither yield ye your members <i>as</i> instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members <i>as</i> instruments of righteousness unto God. <b>2 Cor 7:1</b> Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us <u>cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit</u>, <u>perfecting holiness</u> in the fear of God. <b>Eph 6:10-18</b> - Put on the armour of God.</p>

- *Illustration:* “I believe that a strong Christian can go anywhere safely”, declares Nick, defending his attendance at a seedy notorious place of entertainment. “He can discern good from evil – he can take the good, and leave the bad.” William responded, “I disagree. A true Christian would not want to go there.” After arguing for some time, they decided to bring their questions to their pastor. The pastor replied with a story: “Last summer, our family toured an old coal mine. Ahead of us, in line to enter the elevator that would take us down into the mine was a lady wearing a beautiful laced long white dress. Another person warned her that it would be foolish to enter the mine with her dress for the black dust would ruin it. “Not believing this, she went to the guide, an old coal miner who had been giving tours of the mine for years, and asked, “Can I wear this white dress into the mine?” “Yes, Ma’am, you can wear a white dress into the mine,” he replied, “but you will not be wearing a white dress when you come out of it!” The pastor added, “Boys, a strong Christina knows that sin and its temptations would soil his clothes like coal dust. Because he loves God, and wants to live a clean pure life, he will not go near to the place where his clothes could be dirtied.” What practical lessons can we learn from this story?

**4. Put on the spiritual armour of God daily (Eph 6:10-18).**

- a. Believers are spiritual soldiers, daily fighting a spiritual battle against sin, temptations and Satan. What good, healthy, nourishing food do you feed on every morning before you enter into battle.
- b. Why is a poorly-fed spiritual soldier a poorly-fighting one?
  - *Illustration:* The famous successful French general, Napoleon, always insisted on a good, healthy, nourishing meal for all his soldiers before they entered battle. “*A poorly-fed soldier is a poorly-fighting soldier*” was his motto.

**5. Sanctification is a work of God’s Holy Spirit in the life of a believer. Believers:**

1. Walk after the Holy Spirit	Rom. 8:4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who <b>walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.</b>
2. Mind the things of the Spirit	Rom 8:5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but <b>they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.</b>
3. Are influenced by the indwelling Holy Spirit	Rom. 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that <b>the Spirit of God dwell in you.</b> Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.
4. Mortify sin and sinful nature by the power of the Holy Spirit	Rom. 8:13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye <b>through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.</b>
5. Are led by the Holy Spirit	Rom. 8:14 For as many as are <b>led by the Spirit of God,</b> they are the sons of God.
6. Are assured by the Holy Spirit	Rom. 8:16 <b>The Spirit itself beareth witness</b> with our spirit, <b>that we are the children of God:</b>
7. Experience the intercession of the Holy Spirit	Rom. 8:27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what <i>is</i> the mind of <b>the Spirit,</b> because he <b>maketh intercession for the saints</b> according to <i>the will of God.</i>

**6. Sanctification springs from a believer’s love for God.** Those who truly love God desire to do that which pleases Him (even when it involves sacrifice), and are deeply pained when they do that which grieves Him.

- *Illustration:* Albert and Sophie were engaged for several months. They confessed their love for one another both publicly and privately. Albert had to be away for three months in Tokyo for business. He had a few colleagues who are jealous of him and tried to slander him and undermine his position. During his absence, Sophie was regularly seen flirting with, and dating these young men – Albert’s slanderers. She seemed happy being with them time and again. After observing this, what would you think of Sophie’s love and dedication to Albert? Will her continued meetings with these other young men help or hinder her relationship with Albert?
- God’s people are the Bride of Christ (Eph 5:31-32; Rev 21:2, 9, 22:17).
- Jesus said, “If ye love me, keep my commandments.” (John 14:15)