

North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

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3/1/16 - The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification - Part
55

"because of the grace"

Paul understood completely that his strength was never from himself, rather it was by the grace of God. Any boldness that he exhibited (ala Ro 15:15) was founded on this very fact.

Two Things About Humility

Humility is simultaneously aggressive in its tact and confident in what it discovers/reaffirms. To personify it, it says, "My Master is hands down the greatest of all; therefore, as long as I abide in Him, keep His commandments, love Him, all will be well."

"Hi, Dad..."

"You ordained this life, this body, this mind, this heart before I was even born. You want me to glorify you, right? Then, this is YOUR problem to solve. I'm here, I'm available. PS: thank You for your patience." - <your name>

"Hi, My Child..."

"For years I watched as you assumed responsibility over your sanctification. That was arrogant of you. Now that I've got your humility, I can solve MY problem without you getting in the way. PS: regarding My patience, you're welcome. The important thing is that you're here now."

The Power to Overcome

- 2Pe 2:9a then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation...
- 2Pet. 2:19b ...for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved.

Jas 1:12 [Message]

Anyone who meets a testing challenge head-on and manages to stick it out is mighty fortunate. For such persons loyally in love with God, the reward is life and more life.

Jas 1:13-15 [Message]

Don't let anyone under pressure to give in to evil say, "God is trying to trip me up." God is impervious to evil, and puts evil in no one's way. The temptation to give in to evil comes from us and only us. We have no one to blame but the leering, seducing flare-up of our own lust. Lust gets pregnant, and has a baby:

sin! Sin grows up to adulthood, and becomes a real killer.

Connection Implies Sanctification

Connect with Jesus. Pray with Him. Open your Bible and drink Him, consume Him (Jn 6:53-58). Watch as the Word washes over you and delivers you from your recurring lusts.

Perseverance of the Saints

"From faith to faith" expresses that true faith is not a single event, but a way of life - it endures. In this sense, the "righteousness from God" that "is revealed" is unique to true believers only, for they "live by faith"!

Sanctification Perspectives

God's Perspective

- Sanctified (set apart for Him)

Man's Perspective ("phases")

- Positional (imputed R+ / judicially)
- Experiential (imparted R+ / daily)
- Ultimate (completed R+ / eternally)

ONLY God Can Sanctify Man!

If you lose sight of the Gospel, you will doubt this basic truth and adopt a form of self-sanctification eventually.

Sanctify / Sanctification

Used 106 times in the OT and 31 times in the NT. In general, it refers to being set apart or the state of being so. It typically relates to matters of position and relationship; for example, regarding a person's standing with God.

Holy / Holiness

Used ~400 times in the OT and 12 times in the NT, referring to believers. Refers to being separated from that which is unholy. Christ was holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners; thus He was sanctified. Except for God, sinlessness is not necessarily implied, as even the holiest of priests in the OT were sinners.

Both sanctified and holy are context sensitive in the Bible.

Lev 21:8

'You shall consecrate [qadash (Hebrew)] him, therefore, for he offers the food of your God; he shall be holy [qadosh (Hebrew)] to you [re: relative holiness]; for I the LORD, who sanctifies [qadash (Hebrew)] you, am holy [qadosh (Hebrew) - re: absolute holiness].

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Positional Sanctification (Imputed "Phase")

God wills to sanctify (make holy) the whole world by saving them through Jesus Christ. Those who have been saved from the penalty of sin (Positional Salvation) are delivered to imputed (judicial) righteousness through justification (Ro 4:23-25). A believer's position "in Christ" is the greatest inspiration for holy living (aka Experiential Sanctification). (Ac 20:32; 1Co 1:2; 6:11; Heb 10: 10, 14; Jude 1:1)

Ro 4:25 [Amplified]

[Jesus our Lord] was betrayed and crucified because of our sins, and was raised [from the dead] because of our justification [our acquittal-absolving us of all sin before God].

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Salvation Perspectives

God's Perspective

- Salvation from sin

Man's Perspective ("tenses")

- Positional (from penalty of sin)
- Experiential (from power of sin)
- Ultimate (from presence of sin)

*** Sin-to-Righteousness diagram ***

Predestination

God's grace never fails. If you are saved, you are sanctified. If you are sanctified, then He has delivered you. ALL of these aspects of His divine will were completed, by decree, before you were even born.

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Positional Sanctification

All saints are equally sanctified "in Christ". Since believers are sanctified judicially on the merits of Christ, Himself (He has become righteousness unto them), positional sanctification is perfected in all those who are saved.

*** Phases-of-Sanctification diagram ***