

North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

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3/3/16 - The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification - Part
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Synthesizing

What does it mean to "live" the Gospel reality? And how does this compare to say, "living the spiritual life"? Are these different or one and the same concept? (ref: Ro 15:13-19)

"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."

Misguided Grace-Orientation

To a person functioning in creature-credit, grace makes zero sense because they think in terms of "silver bullets", "chits" and "finite currency". This is in direct violation of Mt 25:29 & Lk 19:26.

Jas 4:6 [Amplified]

But He gives us more and more grace [through the power of the Holy Spirit to defy sin and live an obedient life that reflects both our faith and our gratitude for our salvation]. Therefore, it says, "God is opposed to the proud and haughty, but

[continually] gives [the gift of] grace to the humble [who turn away from self-righteousness]."

Practical Sanctification

Sanctification, though a reasonably "technical" term, is really about learning how to live a life of confidence in Christ, a life of peace with the Spirit's encouragement, and a sense of reality in the Gospel truth. In brief, sanctified means focusing on Jesus Christ to the point that everything else fades to the background.

Caution

Sophomores (wise morons) are famous for making personal experiences with sanctification absolute doctrine. The more assertive then impose their doctrines upon others, stifling the spiritual growth of others. God made His children individually.

Practical Sanctification

Being sanctified in Christ means understanding the depths of His love for you as an individual (you are "wonderfully made" - Psa 139:14). That is coupled with understanding that you are to relate to others from the uniqueness that is "you". Altogether, we comprise the "dynamic spiritual life".

Ro 1:17

Describes the essence of life for a true believer. A person being saved (daily) is a person who is being sanctified (daily).

Both sanctified and holy are context sensitive in the Bible.

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

Sanctifies to Righteousness

- Penalty
- Power
- Presence
- Imputed righteousness
- Imparted righteousness
- Complete righteousness

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)

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)

Ac 20:32 [Amplified]

And now I commend you to God [placing you in His protective, loving care] and [I commend you] to the word of His grace [the counsel and promises of His unmerited favor]. His grace is able to build you up and to give you the [rightful] inheritance among all those who are sanctified [that is, among those who are set apart for God's purpose-all believers].

1Co 6:11 [Amplified]

And such were some of you [before you believed]. But you were washed [by the atoning sacrifice of Christ], you were sanctified [set apart for God, and made holy], you were justified [declared free of guilt] in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the [Holy] Spirit of our God [the source of the believer's new life and changed behavior].

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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 ***

Positional & Experiential Sanctification

While the Corinthians were holy (e.g., 2Co 9:1-2) and unholy in life (e.g., 1Co 5:1-2; 6:1-8) in terms of experiential sanctification, they are said to have been sanctified, positionally (1Co 1:2; 6:11).