

## The Gospel Transformation Map

### What is 'Reformational' or 'Reformed' Theology?

- Definition: All of life lived according to the Word of God, by the grace of God, through faith in the Son of God, united by the Spirit of God, to magnify and enjoy God.
- Big Ideas: God rules and controls all things in creation, salvation, and history (*the sovereignty of God*)  
The Bible is a single, unfolding story of God's saving promises to man (*covenant theology*)

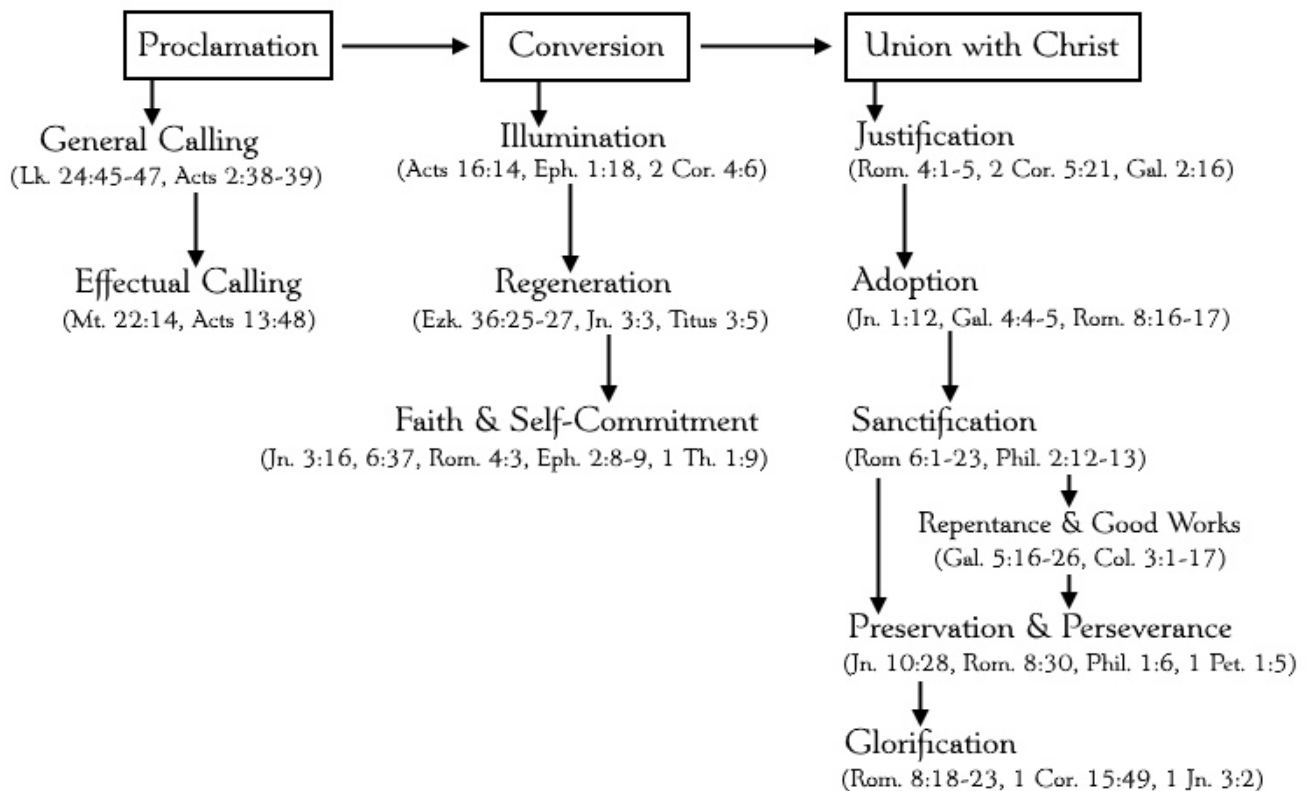
### The Church Reformed – and Always Reforming

- Luther, Calvin, and the other Reformers were *not* against making use of earlier creeds or theological ideas, but they insisted that all such traditions *must* be tested by, and submitted to, the Word of God.
- This is the cornerstone of the Reformation: always striving to bring all of life into line with God's Word!
- The Reformers had a special phrase for this – *semper reformanda* (always reforming)
- This task of ongoing Reformation didn't die with the Reformers; it continues with us today & tomorrow!

### Today

- The Reformation brought light, but it did not end the war. The Christian life is one of ongoing spiritual conflict with the world (1 Jn. 2:15-17), the flesh (Rom. 13:12-14), and the devil (Eph. 6:10-20).
- These enemies create many dangers: mental dungeons, emotional struggles, and spiritual traps...
- Understanding how God saves us – the map of gospel transformation – helps us navigate these dangers.

### How God Saves Us – the Gospel Transformation Map



## Justification vs. Sanctification – the Most Critical Distinction!

- *Basic Definitions*

- Justification: “Justification is an act of God’s free grace, wherein he pardons all our sins, and accepts us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.” (*Westminster Shorter Catechism #33*)  
= God declares us righteous, once and for all, because of what Jesus did for us!
- Sanctification: “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 #35*)  
= God makes us righteous, bit by bit, through the work of Christ’s Spirit in us!

- *Important Differences*

	Justification	Sanctification
What God Does	Act of God	Work of God
What We Experience	Sin forgiven	Sin uprooted
	Righteousness credited	Righteousness cultivated
When It Takes Effect	As soon as we first believe	Progressively as we live by faith
Relative Progress	Equal in all Christians	Unequal among Christians
Date of Completion	Perfect already	Not yet perfect

- *Analogy*

- Justification is like *buying a house* – through the work of Jesus, God takes *permanent possession* of us.
- Sanctification is like *remodeling a house* – through the Holy Spirit, God does *ongoing renovation* of us.
- Justification is the foundation for sanctification – God remodels us because he bought us, not vice-versa!
- Question: why is it so important to keep this distinction clear?

### Avoiding the Great Pitfalls

- Legalism/Moralism – collapses justification into sanctification: “I am saved *because* I obey.”  
– also manifests as Pietism: “If I don’t have X amount of fruit, I might not be saved.”  
– symptoms: lack of assurance, self-righteousness, delights to criticize other Christians
- Antinomianism – collapses sanctification into justification: “I am saved *regardless* of whether I obey.”  
– symptoms: sinful habits disguised as “Christian liberty,” rejection of accountability
- The Gospel – sanctification on the basis of justification: “I obey *because* I am saved.”

### A New Identity

- Justification changes our status forever – we are now the children of God (*adoption*)!  
As adopted children of God, we are taken “out of the courtroom and into the living room,” (Willborn).  
As children in God’s family, we must learn to live by the family rules (*sanctification*).
- This process of “learning the house rules” of God’s family involves two pieces:
  - Repentance – *turning from sin*: identifying, forsaking, and killing off self-sinful habits
  - Good Works – *turning to God*: learning, cultivating, and practicing God-centered habits
- All of this flows out of our union with Christ: we lived differently because we are different!  
We have a new identity: we have been changed forever by God’s grace; we are not who we once were.