

Second London Baptist Confession Chapter 13: Sanctification

Introduction

Something that is 'sanctified,' 'holy' is separated, set apart from sinful, common, ordinary use, to God (Ex. 13:2; 1 Pet. 3:15) Christians are to be holy. They are 'saints,' 'holy ones' (Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:2).

I. A General Overview of Sanctification (Par. 1)

-Recipients: *"Those who are united to Christ and effectually called and regenerated"* who *"have a new heart and a new spirit created in them through the power of Christ's death and resurrection."* (1 John 3:9)

-Development: *"They are also further sanctified"* (Definitive, Progressive, Climactic Sanctification; see Rom. 6:2-7; 2 Cor. 3:18; Heb. 12:23)

-Character: *really and personally*" (Rom. 6:19)

-Source: *"through the same power"* (Rom. 6:4-7)

-Means: *"by His Word and Spirit dwelling in them"* (2 Thess. 2:13)

-Substance: Negatively: *"The dominion of the whole body of sin is destroyed, and the various evil desires that arise from it are more and more weakened and put to death."* (Rom. 8:13) Positively: *"At the same time, those called and regenerated are more and more enlivened and strengthened in all saving graces so that they practice true holiness."* (2 Cor. 7:1)

-Necessity: *"without which no one will see the Lord."* (Heb. 12:14)

II. The Nature of Sanctification (Pars. 2, 3)

-Comprehensive: *"This sanctification extends throughout the whole person"* (1 Thess. 5:23)

-Imperfect: *"though it is never completed in this life"* (Matt. 5:48; 1 John 1:8)

-Militant: *"Some corruption remains in every part. From this arises a continual and irreconcilable war, with the desires of the flesh against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh."* (Gal. 5:17)

-Successful: *"In this war, the remaining corruption may greatly prevail for a time. Yet through the continual supply of strength from the sanctifying Spirit of Christ, the regenerate part overcomes."* (Rom. 6:14; 2 Cor. 3:18; 1 John 5:4)

-Progressive: *"So the saints grow in grace, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. They pursue a heavenly life, in gospel obedience to all the commands that Christ as Head and King has given them in His Word."* (2 Cor. 7:1; 2 Pet. 3:18)

Summary and Conclusion

1) Definitive Sanctification is the basis for Progressive Sanctification (Rom. 6:1-13).

2) Biblical sanctification involves both divine and human activity (Phil. 2:12, 13).

3) The biblical doctrine of sanctification refutes all forms of perfectionism (1 John 1:8).

4) Victory is guaranteed (Rom. 8:31-39; Phil. 1:6).

5) Your battle against sin glorifies God.