

Spiritual Formation

Growing Into the Image of Christ



1

Session 2: The Gospel

2

Main Idea

- Christians are to live in light of their salvation. Having a thorough understanding of salvation and specifically the relationship of justification and sanctification is crucial for spiritual formation.

JUSTIFICATION
AND
Sanctification

The image shows the cover of a book titled 'Justification and Sanctification'. The title is centered on a light-colored, textured background. 'JUSTIFICATION' is in a bold, sans-serif font, 'AND' is in a smaller, spaced-out font, and 'Sanctification' is in a large, elegant serif font.

3

The Man/Woman of God

- What is the Man/Woman of God like?
 - He/she understands the gospel—understands salvation extremely well.



4

The Bad News

- All humanity is captive to sin. We are all sinners.
- Romans 1:18-25, 32

For God's wrath is revealed from heaven against all godlessness and unrighteousness of people who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth, ¹⁹since what can be known about God is evident among them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰For his invisible attributes, that is, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, being understood through what he has made. As a result, people are without excuse. ²¹For though they knew God, they did not glorify him as God or show gratitude. Instead, their thinking became worthless, and their senseless hearts were darkened. ²²Claiming to be wise, they became fools ²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man, birds, four-footed animals, and reptiles. ²⁴Therefore God delivered them over in the desires of their hearts to sexual impurity, so that their bodies were degraded among themselves. ²⁵They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served what has been created instead of the Creator, who is praised forever. Amen.

32 Although they know God's just sentence—that those who practice such things deserve to die—they not only do them, but even applaud others who practice them.

5

Bad News

- Results of Genesis 3
 - Run, Hide, Cover-up, & Blame Shift



- Isaiah 64: 6
 - All of us have become like something unclean, and all of our righteous acts are like a polluted garment; all of us wither like a leaf, and our iniquities carry us away like the wind.

6

Grace Alone

- God chose to save us by grace alone.
- Salvation by grace should lead to four things.
 - We become very thankful
 - We become very humble
 - We want to tell everyone else about Jesus
 - We want to live our lives in a way that pleases God.



7

What God Did Before We Believed

- Election, Drawing, Regeneration, and Calling.
- Election—Ephesians 1:3-6
 - Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavens in Christ. ⁴For he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless in love before him. ⁵He predestined us to be adopted as sons through Jesus Christ for himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he lavished on us in the Beloved One.
- Paul's rebuke—Romans 9:18-23
 - So then, he has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy and he hardens whom he wants to harden. ¹⁹You will say to me, therefore, "Why then does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?" ²⁰But who are you, a mere man, to talk back to God? Will what is formed say to the one who formed it, "Why did you make me like this?" ²¹Or has the potter no right over the clay, to make from the same lump one piece of pottery for honor and another for dishonor? ²²And what if God, wanting to display his wrath and to make his power known, endured with much patience objects of wrath prepared for destruction? ²³And what if he did this to make known the riches of his glory on objects of mercy that he prepared beforehand for glory.



8

What God Did Before We Believed

- Drawing
 - We would/could never come to God on our own
 - Jeremiah 13:13: Can the Cushite change his skin, or a leopard his spots? If so, you might be able to do what is good, you who are instructed in evil.
 - God overcomes this first by drawing.
 - John 6:37: Everyone the Father gives me will come to me, and the one who comes to me I will never cast out.
 - John 6:44: No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up on the last day.
 - John 6:65: He said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted to him by the Father.



9

What God Did Before We Believed

- Regeneration
 - John 3:3: Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.
 - John 3:7-8: Do not be amazed that I told you that you must be born again. ⁸ The wind blows where it pleases, and you hear its sound, but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.
- Calling
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:14: He called you to this through our gospel, so that you might obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.



- Questions

10

What God Did the Moment We Believed

- **Justification and Adoption.**

- **Justification**

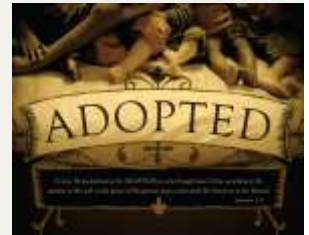
– **Romans 4:5-7:** But to the one who does not work, but believes on him who declares the ungodly to be righteous, his faith is credited for righteousness. Just as David also speaks of the blessing of the person to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: Blessed are those whose lawless acts are forgiven and whose sins are covered.



- **Adoption**

– **Galatians 3:26:** for through faith you are all sons of God in Christ Jesus.

– **John 1:12:** But to all who did receive him, he gave them the right to be children of God, to those who believe in his name.



- **Questions**

11

What God Does For the Rest of Our Life

- **Sanctification**

– Set apart as holy and we start to live holy lives.



12

What God Does After We Die

- **Death**

- 2 Corinthians 5:6: So we are always confident and know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord.

- **Glorification/Resurrection**

- Philippians 3:21: He will transform the body of our humble condition into the likeness of his glorious body, by the power that enables him to subject everything to himself.



- **Question: What is your favorite part of salvation?**

13

Spiritual Formation

- **In what part of salvation does spiritual formation occur?**

- Sanctification.

- **It is important that we understand how justification and sanctification relate to each other.**

- **Justification**

- Declared righteous (end time verdict)
 - Guards against self-righteousness

- **Caution**

- In the Bible, the word righteousness (צְדָקָה) does NOT always mean justification.



14

Spiritual Formation

- So in a general sense, can you be righteous by doing righteousness?
 - Yes. When we talk about the general way someone lives, we can say they are righteous. The Bible does this a lot!
- Does this contradict what Paul said about justification?
 - No. God's final courtroom declaration requires perfection, and that only comes through the imputation of Christ's righteousness.
- We must hold both of these ideas of righteousness together.
 - One is justification; the other is sanctification.
 - Both have to do with righteousness. Justification is imputed righteousness. Sanctification is imparted righteousness.

JUSTIFICATION	SANCTIFICATION
• Legal standing	• Internal condition
• One for all time	• Continuous throughout life
• Entirely God's work	• We cooperate
• Perfect in this life	• Not perfect in this life
• The same in all Christians	• Greater in some than others

15

Spiritual Formation

- Justification (along with the rest of the doctrines of salvation) is monergistic. It is from God alone.
- Sanctification is synergistic. It is you and God working together.
 - God gives you the Holy Spirit, the Bible, and the Church.
 - You read and study the Bible. You flee from sin. You help the poor.
- It is important we understand this, because this whole course has to do with our sanctification.
 - It's not self-righteous because it does not confuse justification and sanctification.

Justification	Sanctification
Judicial: Declared Righteous	Moral: Made Righteous
Instantaneous	Lifelong Pursuit
Imputed righteousness: the Christian's standing / position before God	Imparted righteousness: the Christian's walk / practice before God
Indicative mood: you are justified	Imperative mood: act like it
Union with Christ in his past death / resurrection	Communion with Christ in the present

16

Personal Application

- **Get with a partner and answer the following questions to each other.**
- **Take turns summarizing for each other the various doctrines of soteriology discussed in this lesson.**
- **One partner describe justification and its importance to the other partner. Now, the other partner needs to describe sanctification and its importance to the first partner.**

17

Group Assignment

Create a short presentation where you discuss the relationship between faith and works in the life of the believer.

18