

Theology Simply Explained — WSC35 What Is Sanctification?

Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 35. What is 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.

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The question is, what is sanctification? And the answer is 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 to live under righteousness.

A sanctification being a work here is different than justification and adoption which were Acts as acts justification and adoption took place in moments. There were one single momentary punctiliar action, sanctification as I work, and it's a work that goes through the rest of your life. The apostle John includes himself, even after having been the disciple who was closest to Jesus and one of much sweeter and peaceful and loving character than Peter, for instance, during the time of Jesus's earthly ministry.

And then after receiving the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and being an apostle for decades, still in first, John includes himself among those who still have sin, and who still need forgiveness and cleansing. So, sanctification as a work that is going to take place for the rest of a believer's life.

In this world it is an ongoing thing. The work that God began in us Philippians 1:6. As one that he completes unto the day of Christ. Jesus. And so the soul is perfected at death but the work of sanctification is a renewal in the whole man. And there is a sense in, which, although your body in the grave is not sinful, but it's consecration, it's being made.

Holy it's being prepared for glory is obviously not completed until the resurrection. So this sanctification here, really it describes the whole man, not so much body and soul, but renewed in the whole man, talking about every aspect of who we are. There are things that God, commands, that our spiritual gifts, and there are fools.

We'll say, well, I don't have the gift of hospitality. Well, God, commands you to be hospitable. So you have the gift of hospitality. You just need to fan into flame? The gift of hospitality. That was given you by your being converted spiritually, converted, and being born again, you have the gift of giving you have the, you have various gifts but also fruits, you can't say all this is my fruit of the Spirit or that's not my fruit of the spirit.

I'm just not a gentle person, that's not my personality. No, but it is Jesus's personality and that's the personality that the Holy Spirit works out in you. And so every aspect of who Jesus is is renewed in us Every aspect of who Adam was begins. As part of us in this in this life were fallen in every aspect of who we are every aspect of our character.

Yes, there are some sins that a particular individual is has more of a tendency towards than others. That are more inflamed in him than others. But just as we come into this world with the whole character of the first Adam that every aspect of who we are as fallen.

So also when you believe in Jesus, you come out of the first Adam and become joined to and under and in the last atom and then a work begins of conforming you to the image of the Lord Jesus. This is what we are predestined for to be conformed to the image of his son, Romans 8 tells us.

So, sanctification is the work of God's free grace. Now, you are active in sanctification, We'll see that in a moment. When we get to enabled more and more, It's not like justification where only Jesus has active in our justification, but still it is entirely of God's free grace. It's not something that we earn.

It's not something that we achieve our activity is enabled by God on the front end and blessed by God made effective by God, on the back end. So even those sanctification involves such vigorous words as run and fight and beat and kill those, are very active words, aren't they?

And those are the words that some of the words that the New Testament uses to describe what we do in sanctification it, yet. It happens because of, and by, and has made effective by God's grace alone. Simply merely because God is pleased to do it. We do not earn it from him, We do not convince him to do it when you use the means of grace.

You are not manipulating God into being pleased enough or obligated enough to make you holier. That's not how it works. For instance, when the Jewish people thought that keeping Sabbath or keeping feast, could get something out of God, the Lord told them in Isaiah 58 that approaching what our supposed to be means of grace.

That way is to beat God with a wicked fist to try and get what you want from him with a wicked fist. Sanctification is a work of God's free grace. He's happy to do it. He works in us both to give us willingness and to give us working. Why?

Because it well, pleases him to do. So The reason for it, the cause for it is entirely in him for it as God, who works in you both to will and to work, not according to how well you work. Not according to how much you fear, not according to how much you tremble.

But according to his good pleasure, and that is why We are able to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling is very important that we preserve the truth that those four words in our Catechism answer. Teach us of God's free grace, Then when you're doing badly in your sanctification, which we should modify it when you feel that you are doing badly in your sanctification, you remember that?

It's a work of God's free. Grace. God isn't frustrated. God isn't furious without poorly. You're doing. God is not surprised by how you're doing. He's the one who's doing the work. God is God is not discouraged. It's a work of his free grace. And so, he will finish the work and all of our frustrations and discouragements and despairs in the slowest slowness, and the difficulty of our progress in growing and holiness, all of those things come from looking too much at ourselves, which you can see the apostle himself modeling for us when he looks at himself, himself himself.

And he says, when I want to do, good evil is present with me the good that I want to do. I don't do the evil that I ate. I do. And you can see him almost throwing up his hand and saying, who will save me from the body of this death.

Thanks be to God. So what does he done in that moment? He's turned his attention is turned his focus from how sanctification is going with. Respect to himself

to how scientification is going with respect to God. It's the same apostle in the first half of chapters. 8. Chapter 8, Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ.

Our Lord Jesus has died. Jesus has risen. Jesus is coming again and the certainty of sanctification is not and how it seems to be going with me on earth, but in him who is seated in heaven and what has he done from heaven, He's poured out his spirit. So is sanctification what I do with the law in my efforts.

No, sanctification is what the Spirit of life is doing in me to enable me to walk. According to the law there is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ. Jesus, who walk according to the spirit of the law of the spirit of life. I not quoting it.

Exactly. That's read it. Thank God. We don't have one of those ESVs that cuts out the second half of the verse, who do not walk according to the flesh. But according to the spirit or the law of the Spirit of life in Christ, Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

And he goes on to talk about the battle. But he doesn't talk about the battle in terms of being discouraged, that it is not one, yet He talks about the fact that his fighting against sin is a, reminder an evidence that it's the Holy Spirit who is leading him in this battle and does the Holy Spirit gonna lose that battle Of course not what God the Holy Spirit has begun God.

The Holy Spirit will complete God, the Holy Spirit will win. The fact that sanctification is a work of God's free grace gives you the certainty of the completion and perfection of it. So, sanctification is the work long process of God's free grace, something that God does simply because He's please do and which we know must at last succeed whereby we are renewed.

In the whole man. After the image of God, Is he going to forget or leave out any part of what it means to be. Holy True. There are sins that you find more difficult to battle against and more lasting and they're holding out against the assault that that the Holy Spirit is leading you in making upon that sin.

But as God going to miss that part, Is there going to be any part of the enemy stronghold that he doesn't clear? And eliminate all of the enemies from it and take it over. Of course not. And so you're renewed in the whole man. After the image of God, There are not going to be any spots or wrinkles, or blemishes, or any such thing in any part of the Bride of Christ.

When he presents her to himself in the last day. And if you are a member of his body of your, a member of his bride, that means he is going to address it all, which means as you are led by the Spirit, you must address it all. Don't focus on those parts where you think you have done well and start comparing yourself to others and spend you know heart and mind in this life polishing your Christian star.

If you're doing that, you are making that aspect of remaining sin. That is your pride all the more grotesque and you know exactly what you should be attacking, don't you but renewed in the whole man after the image of God and are enabled more and more. Oh, This enabled word means that you have to be active.

Sanctification isn't something that you let go. And let God Remembering the woman from our church in Iowa, whose children were very worried about her because she was trying so hard to love and obey God and they thought, and they were taught in their church, which had a distorted view of grace and to distorted view of sanctification, that if you're trying, you're doing it wrong.

No, the word enabled reminds us that to try. It is commanded work out your own salvation with fear and trembling four. It is God who works in you both to will and to work, according to his good pleasure or to talk about the same relationship in and relating the clauses in the opposite order.

Since God works in, you both to will and to work since God enables you, therefore, do what? He's enabling you to do Since God works in, you both to will, and to work. According to his good, pleasure work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. So in our enabled more and more to do what to die and to sin to say the person that belonged to you sin is dead, the person that is alive belongs to Jesus.

Not you Sin, you have no. Right over me. You have no authority over me. You have no claim to me. You have no power over me. Why? Because I am alive in Jesus Christ for righteousness and that is what my life is for. He saved me so that I would walk in good works.

He created me you so that I would walk in. Good works. Yes, by grace, you are saved. And that by grace you are saved through faith and that not of yourselves. It is the gift of God, so that no man can boast for. We are His workmanship created in Christ.

Jesus to do what to walk in. Good works which he prepared beforehand. Graded in Christ Jesus for good works. He prepared beforehand that we might walk in them. So to live unto righteousness, justification, and act of God's grace adoption and act of God's very grace. Those are the beginning of the Christian life in this world and forever.

Sanctification. That is the rest of the Christian life in this world. And praise God. There's a work of his free grace, but it's not a working, which we do nothing. It's a work in which we are enabled to do everything that is holy. So 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 and to sin and to live unto righteousness.