



# The Reformed, The Law, and Sanctification

## A New Covenant Alternative

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## Introduction

- ◆ I'm not arguing against every Reformed point of view
  - ◆ I agree with a good deal of it
  
- ◆ I'm not arguing for "Keswick" theology
  - ◆ I disagree with much of that
    - ◆ Even though much of this seems to favor Keswick
  
- ◆ I'm only dealing with one narrow point
  - ◆ The relationship between the Law and sanctification





## Introduction

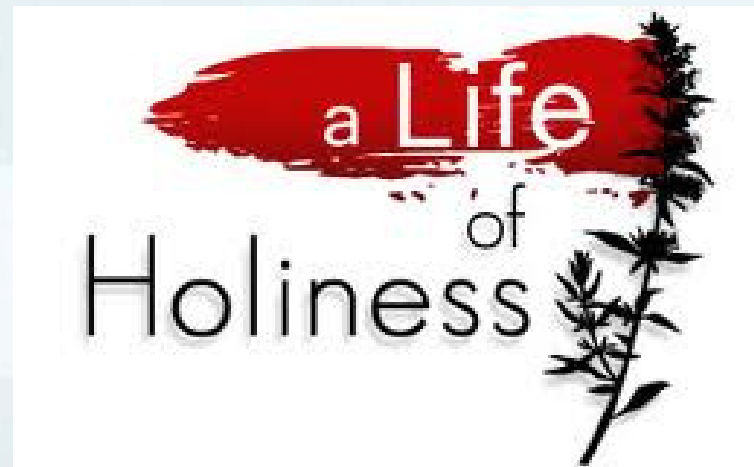
- ◆ Reformed views of sanctification I **agree** with
  - ◆ Progressive, not a crisis experience
  - ◆ No such thing as sinless perfection before glorification
  - ◆ We cooperate with God's grace
  - ◆ We're responsible for unknown sins like known ones
  - ◆ Some Reformed believe old man is dead
  
- ◆ Points of "Keswick" theology I **disagree** with
  - ◆ A crisis point at which sanctification is obtained
  - ◆ Sanctification only deals with known sins
  - ◆ Old man is still alive





## Introduction

- ◆ This is **NOT** academic theological hairsplitting
- ◆ How one is sanctified affects one for **LIFE**





# Sanctification and the **Law**

- 1 Reformers View of the Law
- 2 New Covenant View of the Law
- 3 View of Law Affects Sanctification
- 4 Problems with Reformed View
- 5 Problems with New Covenant View?

# Reformers View of the Law

- ◆ The law has three divisions
  - ◆ Listed
    - ◆ Ceremonial
    - ◆ Civil
    - ◆ Moral
  - ◆ Cross abolished only *two parts* of the law
    - ◆ Ceremonial and Civil law abolished
    - ◆ **Moral law** remains and is in effect now





## New Covenant View of the Law

- ◆ The three divisions of the law are artificial
- ◆ The law was COMPLETELY ABOLISHED at the cross
  - ◆ Christians are not under the law of MOSES
    - ◆ We are under the law of CHRIST
      - ◆ I Cor 9:21 “to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the **law of Christ**, so that I might win those who are without law.
      - ◆ Gal 6:2 “Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the **law of Christ** ”





# Sanctification

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# View of the Law Affects Sanctification

**Reformed** View of Sanctification

**New Covenant** View of Sanctification



## Reformed View of Sanctification

- ◆ The (moral) law is a “rule of life”
  - ◆ Calvin → law is two fences along your path of life
    - ◆ You bounce off the fences to stay sanctified
  - ◆ Sanctification is *externally* oriented towards the law
  - ◆ One must **STRIVE** for perfection
    - ◆ “‘It is thoroughly scriptural and right to say ‘faith alone **justifies.**’ But it is not equally scriptural and right to say ‘faith alone **sanctifies.**’” (Ryle, *Holiness*, p. iii)
  - ◆ We are sanctified by our faith plus **WORKS**
    - ◆ “**Synergism**”
  - ◆ The “old man” is **ALIVE!**
    - ◆ Some, not all, Reformed believe this



## New Covenant View of Sanctification

- ◆ The “old man” is DEAD!!!
  - ◆ **Romans 6:6 (HCSB)** For we know that our old self was **crucified** with Him...
    - ◆ What part of “**crucified**” do we not understand?
- ◆ Focus is internal
  - ◆ Growing the “new man” up to perfection
  - ◆ The Holy Spirit does this, not the law
- ◆ Sanctification comes through an “Exchanged Life”
  - ◆ His life for yours
  - ◆ Hudson Taylor wrote a famous book about this





# Sanctification

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## Problems with **Reform** View of Sanctification

- ◆ Leads to “sanctification by works”??
  - ◆ “...the Scriptures nowhere teach that faith *sanctifies* (emphasis his) us in the same sense, and in the same manner, that faith *justifies* us! JUSTIFYING FAITH is a grace that “**WORKETH NOT**,” but simply trusts, rests, and leans on Christ (Rom 4:5). SANCTIFYING FAITH is a grace of which the very life is action: it “**WORKETH** by love,” and, like a main-spring, moves the whole inward man (Gal 5:6). (Ryle, *Holiness*, 1879)
  - ◆ “It is a hard lesson to live above the law, and yet to walk according to the law...” (Samuel Bolton, Puritan)



## Problems with **Reform** View of Sanctification

- ◆ Leads to “sanctification by works”??
  - ◆ “While you are in the wilderness of this world, you must walk under the conduct of Moses... The law sends us to the **Gospel** that we may be justified; and the Gospel sends us to the **law** again to inquire what is our duty to those who are justified.” (Samuel Bolton, Puritan)
  - ◆ the Mosaic “moral laws” are “the special instrument... for keeping alive in men’s souls a sense of duty.” (Patrick Fairbairn)





## Problems with **Reform** View of Sanctification

- ◆ Leads to “sanctification by works”??
- ◆ Gal 3:3 “Are you so foolish? After beginning with the **Spirit**, are you now going to be made complete by the **flesh**? “
  - ◆ “beginning” is justification
  - ◆ Being “made complete” is sanctification







# Problems with **Reform** View of Sanctification

- ◆ Leads to condemnation and failure??
  - ◆ Keeping the law leads to sin and death
    - ◆ **Rom 6:14** “For sin will not rule over you, because you are not under law but under grace.”
      - ◆ Logical equivalent → “Sin will rule over you, because you are under law and not under grace”





## Problems with **Reform** View of Sanctification

- ◆ **C.H. Mackintosh**, *Notes on Deuteronomy*, Vol. 1, pp314-15
  - ◆ “Some [say] that they do not take the law for justification, but as a **rule of life** (emphasis mine); but this is neither reasonable nor intelligent... Who gave us authority to decide as to the use we are to make of the law? We are either under the law or we are not. If we are under it at all, it is not a question of how we take it, but how it takes us... If we are under it for any object whatsoever, we are under the **curse**; for it is written, ‘**Cursed** is everyone that continueth not ... in... the law’”





## Problems with **Reform** View of Sanctification

- ◆ **Watchman Nee**, *The Normal Christian Life*, p120
  - ◆ “We know that justification... requires no work on our part, but we think sanctification is dependent on our own efforts...we believe we can obtain deliverance by doing something ourselves. We fear that if we do nothing, nothing will happen... In both cases *He* (emphasis Nee’s) is the doer. ‘It is God that worketh in you.’”





## Problems with **New Covenant** View of Sanctification?

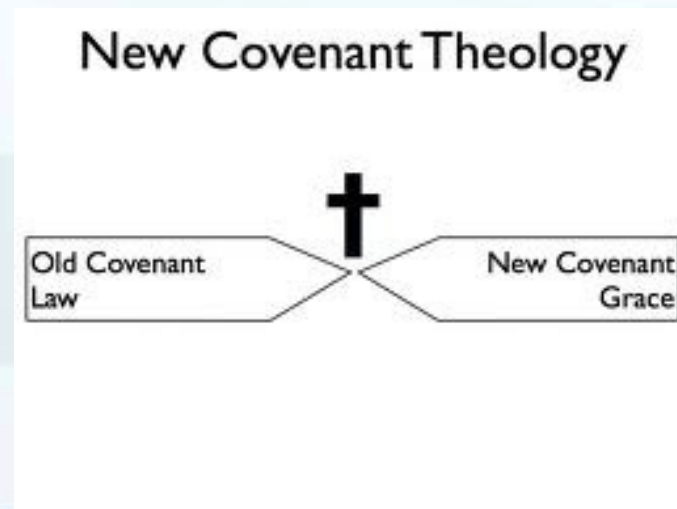
- ◆ Is it antinomian?
  - ◆ NO!!!
    - ◆ New Covenant Christians ARE under law
      - ◆ The law of CHRIST
        - ◆ I Cor 9:21 “to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the **law of Christ**, so that I might win those who are without law.
        - ◆ Gal 6:2 “Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the **law of Christ** ”

New Covenant Theology



## Problems with **New Covenant** View of Sanctification?

- ◆ Does it contradict Scripture?
  - ◆ **I Cor 15:10b** (NASB) “...I LABORED even more than all of them,...”
    - ◆ The rest of the verse
      - ◆ yet NOT I, but the GRACE of God with me.





## Problems with **New Covenant** View of Sanctification?

- ◆ Does it contradict Scripture?
  - ◆ **Phil 2:12,13 (NASB)** “WORK out your salvation w/ fear and trembling;...”
    - ◆ The rest of the passage
      - ◆ “for it is **GOD** who is at WORK in you, both to will and to WORK for **HIS** good pleasure.”
        - ◆ Note the *interior* focus of the work (“IN you”)





## Problems with **New Covenant** View of Sanctification?

- ◆ Does it contradict Scripture?
  - ◆ **Col 1:29 (NASB)** “And for this purpose also I **LABOR, STRIVING...**”
    - ◆ The rest of the passage
      - ◆ “according to **HIS** [Christ’s] power, which works mightily **IN ME.**”
        - ◆ Note the *interior* focus of the work (“**IN ME**”)







## Problems with **New Covenant** View of Sanctification?

- ◆ Does it contradict Scripture?
  - ◆ **Phil 4:13 (NASB)** “I can **DO** all things...”
    - ◆ The rest of the passage
      - ◆ “through **HIM** who strengthens me.”



## Problems with **New Covenant** View of Sanctification?

- ◆ Does it lead to **PASSIVITY** and **QUIETISM & NO DISCIPLINE**?
  - ◆ NO!!!
    - ◆ A common criticism
      - ◆ And I can answer it in four words
        - ◆ Hudson Taylor
        - ◆ Amy Carmichael
    - ◆ Hudson Taylor
      - ◆ IMHO, the greatest modern missionary ever
      - ◆ Attended three Keswick conventions, spoke at one
      - ◆ Credits success of CIM to “Exchanged Life”
    - ◆ Amy Carmichael
      - ◆ 1 year in Japan, over 50 years in India
    - ◆ Hudson Taylor and Amy Carmichael were *passive*???????





## Problems with **New Covenant** View of Sanctification?

- ◆ Does it lead to **PASSIVITY** and **QUIETISM & NO DISCIPLINE?**
  - ◆ NO!!!
    - ◆ New Covenant Christians are ACTIVE
      - ◆ I Cor 15:10b (NASB) “...I **LABORED**...”
      - ◆ Phil 2:12,13 (NASB) “**WORK** out your salvation w/ fear and trembling;...”
      - ◆ “And for this purpose also I **LABOR, STRIVING...**”
      - ◆ Phil 4:13 (NASB) “I can **DO** all things...”
    - ◆ But New Covenant Christians don't forget the rest of the verses...
      - ◆ Where is the motive power?
      - ◆ Where is the Law?



## Problems with **New Covenant** View of Sanctification?

- ◆ Does it lead to **PASSIVITY** and **QUIETISM & NO DISCIPLINE**?
  - ◆ NO!!!
    - ◆ New Covenant Christians are ACTIVE
      - ◆ **Romans 8:13 (HCSB)** for if you live according to the flesh, you are going to die. But if **by the Spirit you** put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.
        - ◆ “**you**” have to mortify the flesh
        - ◆ But where does the power come from – the Law?
          - ◆ “by the **Spirit**”





## Problems with **New Covenant** View of Sanctification?

- ◆ Does it lead to **PASSIVITY** and **QUIETISM & NO DISCIPLINE**?
  - ◆ NO!!!
    - ◆ New Covenant Christians are ACTIVE
      - ◆ **1 Thessalonians 4:3-4 (HCSB)** <sup>3</sup> For this is God's will, your **sanctification**: that **you** abstain from sexual immorality, <sup>4</sup> so that each of **you** knows how to **control** his own body in **sanctification** and honor,
      - ◆ **2 Corinthians 7:1 (HCSB)** Therefore, dear friends, since we have such promises, **let us cleanse ourselves** from every impurity of the flesh and spirit, completing our **sanctification** in the fear of God.







# New Covenant Sanctification

## Scripture to Consider

- ◆ **Acts 26:18 (NASB)** “to open their [Gentiles] eyes... that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been SANCTIFIED BY **FAITH** in Me.”
  - ◆ Gentiles sanctified by WORKS or by **FAITH**?







# New Covenant Sanctification

## Scripture to Consider

- ◆ **Rom 7:4** “Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to **DIE TO THE LAW** through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to **Him** who was raised from the dead, in order that we might **BEAR FRUIT FOR GOD.**”
  - ◆ How does one “bear fruit for God?”
    - ◆ Working hard, or by being in union with Christ?





# New Covenant Sanctification

## Scripture to Consider

- ◆ **Rom 7:5** “For while we were in the **FLESH**, the **SINFUL** passions, which were aroused by the **LAW**, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for **DEATH**.”
  - ◆ This verse shows the Law at work
    - ◆ Where is the sanctification?
      - ◆ All I see is sinful passions and death





# New Covenant Sanctification

## Scripture to Consider

- ◆ **Gal 5:18** “But if you are led by the **Spirit**, you are not under the **Law**.”





# New Covenant Sanctification

## Scripture to Consider

- ◆ **I Cor 15:56** “The sting of **DEATH** is sin, and the power of **SIN** is the **LAW...**”
  - ◆ This verse shows the Law at work
    - ◆ Where is the sanctification?
      - ◆ All I see is death and sin





# New Covenant Sanctification

## Scripture to Consider

- ◆ **Galatians 2:20-21 (NASB)** <sup>20</sup> "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but **Christ** lives **in me**; and the *life which I now live* in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. <sup>21</sup> "I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the **Law**, then Christ died needlessly."
  - ◆ The life Paul "now lives" refers to *sanctification*
    - ◆ If Paul's sanctification came through the Law...
      - ◆ Jesus wasted his time on the cross!!!



# New Covenant Sanctification

## Scripture to Consider

- ◆ **John 15:5 (NASB)** "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I **in him**, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do **NOTHING**."!!!!!!
  - ◆ Bearing fruit is sanctification
    - ◆ And you can't grow the fruit yourself
      - ◆ I don't care how much you labor and strive yourself
        - ◆ You can do... **N O T H I N G** !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!







# New Covenant Sanctification

## Scripture to Consider

- ◆ **1 Corinthians 1:30 (NASB)** But by His doing you are in **Christ Jesus**, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and **sanctification**, and redemption,
  - ◆ Jesus is our sanctification
    - ◆ Any mention of the Law?







# New Covenant Sanctification

## Summary and Conclusion

- ◆ Point One: Concerning **working together with God...**
  - ◆ Reformers are absolutely right to emphasize this
    - ◆ But should emphasize more who works the most
      - ◆ “We are NOT saying we have equal roles in sanctification... but simply that we cooperate with God...” (Grudem)
      - ◆ John Murray (Reformed)
        - ◆ Will not say God and man cooperate
          - ◆ God primary, man secondary
        - ◆ *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*, p145



# New Covenant Sanctification

## Summary and Conclusion

- ◆ Point Two: Concerning **using the Law for sanctification...**

◆ **FORGET ABOUT IT!!!**



**Thank you!**

