



20 Beliefs Every Christian Should Know

Lesson 15 – Sanctification and Perseverance

Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 3:18

“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, *there* is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.”

Overview

The *Ordo Solutis*¹:

1. Foreknowledge/Predestination/Election (God’s choice of some unto salvation)
2. Effectual Call/Regeneration (born again/new birth)
3. Conversion (repentance and faith)
4. Justification (declaration of a right legal standing before God)
5. Adoption (being placed into the family of God)
6. Sanctification (progressive growth in holiness)
7. Perseverance (remaining in Christ)
8. Glorification (receiving a resurrected body)

While regeneration is a one time event that happens at the moment a sinner is saved, *sanctification* begins at that moment and continues throughout the entirety of the Christian’s life. God also promises that those who are truly born again and are united to Christ by faith will persevere in faith until the very end. This is called *perseverance* (or perseverance of the saints). Let’s look at God’s Word so that we can better understand these two amazing doctrines.

Sanctification

1. Titus 3:5. What happens at regeneration? _____
2. Ephesians 5:26. How does this washing happen? _____
3. John 17:17–19. How does Jesus say we are sanctified? _____
4. John 15:3. How were the disciples cleansed? _____

¹ John MacArthur, Gen. ed., *Essential Christian Doctrine*, pg. 295-96.

The Believer's Positional Sanctification

1. 1 Corinthians 6:11. What does Paul equate with the believer's washing? _____
 - a. When did this happen? _____
2. Hebrews 10:10. How is a believer sanctified? _____
3. Acts 26:18. What does Paul say about those who have been sanctified? _____

4. 1 Corinthians 1:2. How does Paul address the believers in Corinth? _____

The Believer's Progressive Sanctification

1. Romans 8:12–13. What does a person who is living by the Spirit do? _____

2. Romans 12:2. How do we not become conformed to the world? _____

3. 1 Peter 2:2. How does Peter say a believer grows? _____
4. 2 Corinthians 3:18. How are believers transformed into the image of Christ? _____

“Though the penalty of sin is paid for, and the power of sin is broken, the presence of sin still remains in the believer's flesh and therefore must continually be put to death.”
— Gen. ed. John MacArthur, *Essential Christian Doctrine*, pg. 344.

The Believer's Perfected Sanctification

1. Philippians 3:12. What does Paul say about obtaining perfection in this life? _____
2. 1 John 3:2. When will we be like Christ? _____
3. 1 Thessalonians 5:23. When does Paul say complete sanctification will take place? _____

Perseverance of the Saints

1. Romans 8:1. What will never happen to those who are in Christ? _____

2. Romans 8:29. What are believers predestined for? _____

3. Romans 8:30. What does Paul say is certain for believers? _____
4. John 6:37–40. What does Jesus say He will do for believers? _____

5. Ephesians 4:30. What does the Holy Spirit do for us? _____

“Sanctification is a lifelong process. If you are a believer in Jesus, at times it will seem as if the process is going at a faster rate than you ever thought possible. It’s at these times that you will need to guard against pride and self-righteousness (think yourself better than you are and taking credit for your goodness that is really a gift of grace).”
—Wayne Grudem, *Christian Beliefs*, pg. 106.

Application

1. How can you know that you are positionally sanctified?
2. What are ways you can grow in sanctification?
3. How does perseverance give you hope in this world?