

Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:13–14).

Discussion Questions

- If you are a Christian, what about glorification appeals to you the most?
- How does the knowledge that we will one day be perfectly sanctified encourage us to battle sin?

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Sanctification is such a rich process that it encompasses past, present, and future for the believer. In a Christian's past, God provided a one time positional sanctification in Christ. That believer became holy and set apart on the side of Christ rather than the world. His position before God has changed. It's done. Now, in the present, as that Christian lives his life day by day God is growing him to maturity, increasing his holiness, decreasing his sin, and conforming him more closely to the image of Christ. That's progressive sanctification and it will last his whole lifetime. In the future, when Christ returns, God will bring each believer to perfect, permanent, complete sanctification. They will finally be with Christ, never to deal with sin again.

Revelation 21:5–7 *And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." [6] And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. We call this perfect, complete, final sanctification "glorification," and I am confident it will, indeed, be glorious!*

Discussion Questions

- When you hear the word sanctification, which aspect do you tend to think of first? (Past, present, future)
- How does a fuller understanding of sanctification encourage you in your walk with Christ?

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, May 26th, 2024)

Baptist Catechism Question #38

Q: What is sanctification?

***A:** 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.*

Suggested Memory Verse

2 Thessalonians 2:13 But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. (ESV)

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

In recent weeks we have been taking a closer look at effectual calling and its three benefits: justification, adoption, and now, **sanctification**. What is sanctification? To “sanctify” something is to set it apart for special use; to “sanctify” a person is to make him holy. Our boys and girls catechism says... “It is God making sinners holy in heart and conduct.” I like to think of the word “sanctify” as “SAINT-ify,” because if we belong to Christ then we are called “saints” (*hagioi* in the Greek), or “sanctified ones.” We don’t and can’t set ourselves apart to be holy no matter how hard we try. God says in 2 Thessalonians 2:13 *But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.* This sanctification or setting apart is entirely an act of God’s free grace, and it comes through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. *And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.* (Hebrews 10:10) and just a few verses later it says...*For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.* (Hebrews 10:14) This week we will look at the initial setting apart, the ongoing setting apart, and finally the perfected or completed setting apart that happens in the Christian life.

Discussion Question

- Have you been “SAINT-ified” and set apart as one of God’s elect?
- If you know it, sing “Oh when the Saints Go Marching In” and praise God for including you among the saints.

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The first aspect of sanctification we will look at is often called **positional sanctification**. When I (Shawn) learned to drive, my friends and I sometimes played a dumb game at red lights. The idea was that everyone had to quickly jump out of the car and scramble to swap seats before the light turned green again (please don’t try this). It’s a terrible idea for a game, but it does illustrate how my position in the car would change. I might start in the front right seat and end in the back left seat. When a Christian is saved, their position before God changes. They are no longer on the side of the world. They are now set apart on the side of Christ. This sanctification is a one time forever separation of believers to God. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says *if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.* Wow, we are new? That means we don’t look like our old self and we *have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator* (Colossians 3:10). We are being made after the image of God and in fact Romans 8:29 says...*For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son.* We are to be renewed (Eph 4:23) and not walk in darkness *but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light* (Eph 5:8).

Discussion Questions

- Do you have a regular seat at the dining table, or at church, that you always sit in? What is it like when you have to change position?
- How is a Christian’s position before God different from an unbeliever?

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

As we are being conformed to the image of the son, it takes time to mature and grow in holiness. Christians call this growth that happens during our life on earth **progressive sanctification**. Have you ever watched a baby progress (grow)? Their body slowly gets bigger, their mind begins to gain knowledge, and they begin to speak. It takes time. Watching our garden progress can feel painfully slow, waiting for the first tomatoes, green beans, jalapenos to finally ripen into the fruit they are meant to be. Spiritual growth (progression) is similar. It takes time for our Christian lives to “ripen” as we increase in holiness and begin to die to sin as we mature in Christ. Galatians 5:24 says... *And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.* Positionally, your status with God has changed already, but there is still a lot of sin that has to be slayed. *For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live* (Romans 8:13). Living according to the flesh will not get you anywhere. You can’t grow in holiness by yourself, but if you live by the Spirit, He will shape you, mold you, kill sin in your body and mind, and bring you to eternal life with God.

Discussion Questions

- Can you have progressive sanctification without positional sanctification? Explain.
- If a Christian has already been declared “holy,” why should they strive to grow in holiness?
- Are there specific sins in your life that still need to be slayed for you to become more like Jesus?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The last type of sanctification we will look at this week is **glorification**, or perfect (complete) sanctification. This is the final step of sanctification where God removes all sin from the life of a saint. Matthew 24 and 25 describe the final return of Jesus Christ on judgment day. He will judge all the living and the dead, send his enemies to eternal fire (Hell), but for his children he will give new bodies that are without sin. These new bodies are called glorified bodies. Our sanctification will be completed, and ultimately perfected according to God’s glorious plan. Proverbs 4:18 speaks of that final day, *But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day.* We look forward to this glorification as the children of God and like the apostle Paul says...*Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ* (1 Thessalonians 5:23) and