

Review 9-7-14

God is manifesting his Glory

Regeneration begins the Sanctification process

It is important to remember the **glory of the Gospel** when we start to focus on **God's expectation of our personal holiness**. We have a **positional righteousness** or **positional sanctification** before God on the basis of Christ's life and death (discussed in detail below). We cannot forget that **we have been cleansed** once for all by the death of our Lord Jesus on the cross, and His perfect life of righteousness has been imputed to us by faith. We stand in the spotless righteousness of Christ, God's wrath toward our sin has been appeased (**propitiation**), our guilt has been removed (**expiation**), Christ's righteousness has been imputed to us by faith (**imputation**), and all of this has brought about **reconciliation** with God. God has now **declared us righteous** in His sight on the basis of Christ's perfect life and death. This is called **Justification by Faith**. We are now in a state of grace having all our sins forgiven and possessing the hope of eternal life. If you have been born again by the Holy Spirit and believed upon the Lord Jesus Christ as a result, all of these wonderful blessings from God are surely yours! But now that we have been saved by the grace of God through faith in our Lord Jesus alone, **God expects us to live in holiness** and prove the reality of our faith and love toward Him in obedience to His holy Word! At the same time that our sins are forgiven, God is commanding us to forsake our sins and behave in a holy way.

Titus 2:11-14 - 11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, 12 **instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly** in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus; 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and **purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds**. NASB

1 Peter 1:14-16 - 14 As obedient children, **do not be conformed to the former lusts** which were yours in your ignorance, 15 but like the Holy One who called you, **be holy yourselves also in all your behavior**; 16 because it is written, **"You shall be holy, for I am holy."** NASB

God is changing us in fact – Through the WORD by the SPIRIT

Into His image

Because He IS working in us we respond by working it out

Sanctification is that work of God conforming us into the image of Christ progressively over time. We have noted that it is a **cooperative process** where we are also called to **exert effort** and **diligence** to see it come to fruition. **God works** in **sanctification** and **we work**. It is an ongoing **cooperative process**. God's work is primary and **our effort** is **secondary**. Therefore we are called to **God-dependent effort** throughout the New Testament. Now what we mean by God dependent effort is that we are dependent on God's power to give us the **necessary energy** and **divine enablement** to both forsake the old nature of sin and also to exercise the virtues of the new nature within us by the Holy Spirit. As we **look to God in faith** in seeking these virtues, and seek the **filling** of the **Holy Spirit**, we receive power from God both to put off the old nature and

to put on the new. This calling to exert effort is what we call **imperatives**. They are commandments, **exhortations** and **admonitions** to obedience.

This cooperative process of Sanctification results in

Powerful change – power of godliness –

Becoming like Jesus REALLY - Becoming virtuous

This is how we enjoy God in ourselves - joy unspeakable and full of glory

Pursuing holiness (Christlikeness)

God dependent effort – by Faith

Two ways – Mortify - Killing sin. Imperative

Vivify – put on Christ – Col 3:12-17

Mortification – because the Spirit of God is in us we are obligated to mortify pg 44

We are not in the flesh but “in the Spirit”

The concept of mortification is repeated in the NT as our duty pg 45

Rom 8:13, Col 3:8, Eph 5:3-8

The NT gives us very specific instruction as to what is to be mortified pg 46

Mortification is accomplished primarily by the renewing of the mind pg 46-47

Our condition and the nature of Christian life is warfare

We have died to the authority of sin, but not its influence

We were slaves to sin but now have been set free from its power

Released from the Law, newness of the spirit (under grace) pg 48

We conquer in this warfare by the power and presence of HS pg 49

Rom 6-8 explains Christian sanctification and the victory that is ours in Christ

Rom 6 – dead to sin but alive to God

- Sin is within us – 7:17-23
- Sin makes war against us and never rests - 7:14-25
- Our inner man delights in God’s law – 7:15-23

So sin is in us, but our inner man is delighting in God and His Word

The tension of holiness - We live in the tension of **resting in faith** and **working toward holiness**, it is our **everyday struggle**. Our position in Christ is perfect before God, (both justified and sanctified forever), but our practice is ever and always being conformed in this life to the image of Christ. We are becoming like Christ through the Word, by the Spirit. It is God’s work and He has allowed us the privilege of participating in it with Him. As we have seen, **sanctification** is a **cooperative process** where we are also called to **exert effort** and **diligence** to see it come to fruition. **God works in sanctification** and **we work**. It is an ongoing **cooperative process**. God’s work is primary and **our effort** is **secondary**. Therefore we are called to **God-dependent effort** throughout the New Testament. But we live in the **tension** of always striving to be holy like Christ, and yet never quite attaining it in this life. This is the **nature** of the Christian life.