

1Cor.1:30 (3)

Having seen—Christ our wisdom and righteousness—we now come to our third study—Christ our sanctification—now—I have to confess—this is a subject that's gripped me in the past few years—that is—that we need Christ as much to become Christians as we do to live as Christians—in other words—we not only need Christ to get into the narrow way—but to make progress in that way—He's our wisdom, righteousness, and sanctification...

Now—the first thing I need to do by way of introduction—is answer the question—what is meant by sanctification—simply put—the word means—to set apart or to make holy—Scripture describes two aspects to our sanctification—[1] initial—this refers to that initial sanctification John Murray referred to as—definite sanctification—its simultaneous with regeneration—and refers to that—work of the Spirit—wherein we are set apart from this world and sin—for God—for holy purposes—thus sometimes—Christians are described as, 1Cor.6:11—"you were washed, but YOU WERE SANCTIFIED, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God..."

Notice [2] continual sanctification—this refers to that progressive sanctification—that begins when we become Christians—and continues until we die or Christ returns—Christians have been sanctified (or set apart)—and they are being sanctified, Heb.10:14—"for by one offering He has perfected forever those who are BEING SANCTIFIED"—thus—by sanctification is meant—that progressive work of God—wherein Christians are made holy...

#### I. Christ our Sanctification—or, How is Christ our Sanctification

##### A. He is its author

1. Twice—within the NT—Christ is described as the Author of our salvation, Heb.5:9—"He became the author of eternal salvation..."
2. This means—Christ purchased our sanctification as much as our justification—with and by His redeeming blood...
3. Christ is the author or purchaser of our entire salvation—our justification, sanctification, and glorification...
4. Let me put it as plain as I can—Jesus Christ shed His blood to sanctify us—as much as He did—to justify us...
5. Jn.17:16-19—"they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. 18 As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth..."
6. Notice [a] Christ' sanctification, v19a—"and for their sakes I sanctify Myself"—that is—set apart for God...
7. That Christ was sanctified simply means He was set apart upon a cross—He was set apart for the holy purposes of God...
8. Christ—set Himself apart as our sacrifice—as our sin-bearer—as our sin-atoning and wrath-appeasing Lamb...
9. Notice [b] our sanctification, v19b—"that they also may be sanctified by the truth..."—His sanctification ensures ours...
10. That is—we are set apart from the world and made holy—because of the merits of Christ' sacrificial work...
11. He set Himself apart upon a cross—He bore the wrath of His Father—that we would be a sanctified people...
12. Notice [c] Christ' intercession, v17—"sanctify them by Your truth"—our sanctification is ensured by Christ' prayers...
13. Historically—Christ' High Priestly work is divided into sacrifice and intercession—He bleeds and He pleads...
14. Thus—Christ is the author of sanctification—both because He purchased it—and ensures it—by His intercession...

15. How certain is our sanctification?—as certain as Christ' prayers are heard—"Peter I have prayed for you, that your faith fail not..."
  16. Eph.5:25-26—"husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that he might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word..."
  17. Notice [a] what Christ did—"Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her..."—that is—He died for her...
  18. He bore her sin and satisfied God's wrath—He paid her debt—because she was given to Him from eternity past...
  19. He came in time—to pay her debt—when a man weds a woman he inherits her debts—they become one flesh...
  20. Thus—in the eternal purposes of God—Christ agreed to assume His wife's debt—and He came and paid it in full...
  21. Notice [b] why Christ did it—"that he might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word..."
  22. He did not merely die to justify her—but He also (and equally)—died to sanctify and purify her from her sin...
  23. Oh brethren—we must understand—when we slight the importance of holiness—we slight the purpose of the gospel...
  24. Christ died to make us holy—He died to sanctify us—to set us apart from this world—and to make us pure...
  25. The end or goal of sanctification is found in v27—"that He might present her to Himself a glorious church..."
  26. J.C. Ryle—"He who supposes that Jesus Christ lived, died, and rose again only to provide justification and forgiveness of sins for his people, has yet much to learn. Whether he knows it or not, he is dishonoring our blessed Lord and making Him only a half Savior. The Lord Jesus has undertaken everything that His people's souls require: not only to deliver them from the guilt of their sins by His atoning death, but from the dominion of their sins, by placing in their hearts the Holy Spirit; not only to justify them, but also to sanctify them. He is, thus, not only their righteousness, but their sanctification..."
- B. He is its source
1. By this I mean—He not only purchased our sanctification—but remains the source or supply of ongoing grace...
  2. The Holy Spirit He gives to us—indwells us—and unites us to Christ—drawing from Christ fresh supplies of grace...
  3. Christ is the fountain from which all grace comes—and that grace is communicated to us—by the Holy Spirit...
  4. Thus—Christ is the source or ongoing supply of all grace—from Him (of Him) we have received grace for grace...
  5. Jn.15:1-5—"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing..."
  6. Notice [a] the nature of abiding—to abide simply means to remain—we are to abide (or remain) in Christ...
  7. We abide in Christ—the same way we got into Christ—by faith—by believing the word or promise of Christ (v7)...
  8. Notice—there is a mutual abiding—"abide in Me and I in you"—we in Him by faith—He in us by the Spirit...
  9. Notice [b] the need for abiding, v4—"as the branch cannot bear fruit of itself...v5 without Me you can do nothing..."
  10. Let me say plainly—just as we lack ability to justify ourselves—so we lack the ability to sanctify ourselves...

11. Now—it is important to note the differences—in justification we are passive—in sanctification—we are active...
12. We do not work "for" or "in" our justification—but—we do work "for" and we do work "in" our sanctification...
13. But—my point is this—and it is a extremely important one—we do not work in or by our own ability or strength...
14. Of ourselves—we lack the ability to sanctify ourselves—just as much—as we lack the ability to justify ourselves...
15. We can only bear fruit—in so far as we abide in Him—in so far as we derive (as the branch) grace from the vine...
16. Notice [c] the results of abiding, v5—"he who abides in Me (by faith), and I in him (by the Spirit), bears much fruit..."
17. We abide in Christ by faith—and He abides in us by His Spirit—who enables us—to bring forth much fruit...
18. We bear fruit—by abiding in Christ—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control...
19. Rom.5:1-2—"therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God..."
20. Notice [a] we have grace for justification in Christ, v1—"we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ..."
21. Notice [b] we have grace for sanctification in Christ, v2—"through whom we also have access by faith into this grace..."
22. It is through Christ—that we have access into the treasury of grace—grace ever new—grace ever abounding...

#### C. He is its pattern

1. By this I mean—He not only works within us by His Spirit—but He conforms us to His moral image and likeness...
2. This is the ultimate goal of our sanctification—Christ-likeness—and every Christian is formed into His image...
3. Brethren—sometimes I think we simply fail to ponder the moral beauty and excellence of our Lord Jesus Christ...
4. Ps.45:2—"you are fairer than the sons of men"—that is—He is morally beautify—above and beyond all men...
5. Every grace existed in Christ in perfection—He was given the Spirit without measure—He was morally perfect...
6. 2Cor.3:18—"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 by the Spirit of the Lord..."
7. Notice [a] beholding the glory of the Lord—this has reference to our looking upon Christ through the Scriptures...
8. This we do (as we learned this morning)—by faith—we look upon Him with the eyes of the soul within Scripture...
9. Notice [b] transformed into the same image—as we are looking upon Christ—so we are becoming like Christ...
10. As we are looking to Him—that is—trusting and loving Him—we are conformed into His image or likeness...
11. Now—by clarification—we are not being transformed into His physical or bodily image—but His moral image...
12. In other words—in regeneration our souls have been recreated after the image and likeness of God in holiness...
13. Thus—in sanctification they are being continually conformed—from one degree to another—into this image...

14. This is accomplished—"by the Spirit of the Lord"—that is—we are conformed to Christ' image by His Spirit...
15. Rom.8:29—"for whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren..."
16. Christ—is the prototype of every Christian—who in the end—will share His moral perfection and beauty....
17. This text—refers to Christ in His resurrected and glorified state—every Christian will share this glorification...
18. We shall have a glorified and perfected soul and body—glorification is the final goal of our sanctification...
19. Thus—Christ is our sanctification in that He is its pattern—its goal—its end—we will see Him and be like Him...
20. Every Christian is in various stages of Christ-likeness—He is the perfect pattern—to which we are conformed...

#### D. He is its example

1. His life—serves as the moral example for us to follow—in Christ we find sanctification perfectly illustrated...
2. This of course—is similar to the previous point—but I decided to distinguish it—because there is a slight difference...
3. Christ is not only the pattern into which we are conformed—but He is also the example—in which we follow...
4. Now—when it comes to our sanctification—the law (the Ten Commandments)—plays an important place...
5. The law has no power to sanctify us—but it provides the guide rails—within which our sanctification is achieved...
6. Yet—what was Christ's life—but the perfect fulfillment of the law of God—His life was a transcript of the law...
7. Thus—these two (the objective law and Christ's life)—relate together—as God's written and living standard...
8. What we have written in the law—we find lived in His life—these are one—and provide the standard for holiness...
9. Jn.13:15—"for I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you..."—sacrificial love...
10. Jn.13:34—"a new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another..."
11. Here we find both the law and life of Christ brought together—there is nothing new about the need to love one another...
12. What is new is the example—"as I have loved you, also love one another"—that is—love others as He loved us...

#### E. He is its motive

1. Here I mean—His dying love serves as the motivation for us—to work out our salvation with fear and trembling...
2. Now—this of course doesn't deny—that the Scriptures provide various motives—to pursue a life of purity...
3. Yet—what I want to assert this evening/morning is—there is no greater motive—than the love of God in Christ...
4. Historically—we divide sanctification into two major parts—mortification and vivification—putting off and on...
5. The dying love of Christ—serves as a powerful motive for both—to put sin to death—and to pursue holiness...

6. 1Cor.6:20—"for you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's..."
7. That is—because you were bought at a price—glorify God in your body and spirit—which both belong to God...
8. 2Cor.5:14—"for the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died..."
9. Why does the love of Christ compel us—but because—we understand that Christ died—that we might die...
10. That is—He died on the cross—that we would die to ourselves—and no longer live for ourselves—but for Him...