

Sunday Evening, June 23, 2019
Of Sanctification Westminster Confession of Faith 13:1–3 and 17.2
Romans 6:15–7:6

WCF 13.1 Those who are effectually called and regenerated, having a new heart and a new spirit created in them, are further sanctified—truly and personally—through the power of Christ's death and resurrection, by His Word and Spirit dwelling in them. The dominion of the whole body of sin is destroyed, its various lusts are more and more weakened and put to death, and those called and regenerated are more and more enlivened and strengthened in all saving graces, leading to the practice of true holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.

WCF 13.2 This sanctification, although imperfect in this life, is effected in every part of man's nature. Some remnants of corruption still persist in every part, and so there arises a continual and irreconcilable war—the flesh warring against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh.

WCF 13.3 Although in this war the remaining corruption may strongly prevail for a time, yet, through the continual supply of strength from the sanctifying Spirit of Christ, the regenerate nature overcomes, and so the saints grow in grace, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

WCF 17.2. The perseverance of the saints does not depend upon their own free will, but on the unchangeableness of the decree of election, flowing from the free and unchangeable love of God the Father; on the efficacy of the merit and intercession of Jesus Christ; on the continuing presence of the Spirit, and of the seed of God within them; and on the nature of the covenant of grace. These are the grounds of the certainty and infallibility of their perseverance.

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- I. Your Growth in Holiness Is God's Project and Promise to You Rom. 6:3, 4; WCF 17.2
- A. That You Become Holy Is the Work of God the Father 2 Tim. 2:18, 19; Eph. 2:10; 1 Thess. 5:23

 - B. That You Become Holy Is the Work of God the Son Heb. 13:20, 21; Heb. 7:25; 2 Thess. 3:5

 - C. That You Become Holy Is the Work of God the Spirit
Rom.. 6:4, 10, 11; Phil. 1:6; Phil. 2:12, 13; 1 Jn. 3:3, 9, 10; 1 Jn. 4:4
- II. Your Growth in Holiness Is Your Project and Promise to God Rom. 6:1–2; 11, 15
- A. We Recommit That Our Growth in Holiness Is Our Vow
WCF 13.1; Heb. 12:14; 1 Cor.. 6:9f; Matt. 7:22, 23; Phil. 3:14
2 Tim. 2:19; 1 Pet. 1:15, 16; 2 Tim. 1:9

 - B. We Reaffirm That Our Growth in Holiness Is a War
WCF 13.2, 3; 2 Tim. 2:3–7; 1 Tim. 4:16

 - C. We Resolve That Our Growth in Holiness Is to Be Increasing
 - 1. Our Growth in Holiness Is to Be Extensive—into All Areas of Our Life
WCF 13.2; 1 Thess. 5:23; 1 Tim. 4:16

 - 2. Our Growth in Holiness Will Not Be Completed —Not in this Life
WCF 13.2; Rom 7:14f; 1 Jn. 1:8, 10; 1 Tim. 4:15–16

 - D. We Realize That Our Growth in Holiness Is to Be by the Spirit and the Word WCF 13.1; 13.3
 - 1. Holiness Comes from Knowing God's Word Jn. 17; Ps. 119:9

2. Holiness Comes from Depending on God's Spirit
Phil. 2:13; Rom. 8:13, 14; Gal. 5:16ff
3. Holiness Comes from the Fellowship of Christ's Church

Quotes

"You cannot receive Christ as your justification only, and then, later decide to refuse or to accept Him as your sanctification. He is one and indivisible, and if you receive Him at all, at once He is made unto you 'wisdom and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.' You cannot receive Him as your Savior only, and later decide to accept or refuse Him as your Lord; for the Savior is the Lord who by His death has bought us and therefore owns us. Sanctification is nowhere taught or offered in the New Testament as some additional experience possible to the believer. It is represented rather as something which is already within the believer, something which he must realise more and more and in which he must grow increasingly." (Lloyd-Jones)

"The mature Christian might well covet the simple inscription found on the grave of a Swiss mountain guide: 'Died climbing.'" (Michael Green)

"The old man is both dead and a deadly threat." (Jack Miller)

"Presumptuous and delusive is that hope of seeing Christ hereafter, which does not produce an ardent desire and earnest endeavor to be conformed to him here." (Robert Shaw)

"You can't make sense of the Bible without understanding that God is holy and this holy God is intent on making a holy people to live with him forever in a holy heaven." (DeYoung)

"If you think that being a Christian is nothing more than saying a prayer or joining a church, then you've confused real grace with cheap grace. Those who are justified, will be sanctified." (DeYoung)

"Though God does not elect men because he foresees they will live holy, yet he elects them that they may live holy. Thus God in the decree of election ordained that men should walk in good works. 'Created . . . unto good works, which God has foreordained that we should walk in them' (Eph. 2:10)." (Jonathan Edwards)

"When sin lets us alone we may not let sin alone; but as sin is never less quiet when it seems to be most quiet, and its waters are for the most part deep when they are still, so ought our contrivances against it to be vigorous at all times and in all conditions, even when there is least suspicion. There's no safety against sin, but in constant warfare. To not mortify sin, but to accept it, places one on the brink of hardness of heart, rebellion and to be deceived." (John Owen)

"Perseverance of the saints is a duty as well as a grace. The grace of it should be preached for the encouragement of the diligent. The duty, and absolute necessity of it to salvation, should be preached to quicken the slothful and to increase the sense of obligation felt by all." (A.A. Hodge)

"True, His love for me is not based on my qualifications or my preparation. But it is misleading to say that God accepts us the way we are. Rather He accepts us despite the way we are. He receives us only in Christ and for Christ's sake. Nor does He mean to leave us the way He found us, but to transform us into the likeness of His Son. Without that transformation and new conformity of life we do not have any evidence that we were ever His in the first place." (Sinclair Ferguson, *The Whole Christ*)

"Holiness is the only evidence of election. For one who lives in sin to claim to be elected unto holiness is a contradiction." (Charles Hodge)

"For though obedience does not make us children, as the gift of adoption is gratuitous, yet it distinguishes children from aliens. . . Hence we learn what Christians ought to propose to themselves as an object throughout life, that is, to resemble God in holiness and purity." (John Calvin)

"My fear is that as we rightly celebrate, and in some quarters rediscover, all that Christ has saved us from, we are giving little thought and making little effort concerning all that Christ has saved us to." (DeYoung)

"The faithfulness of the Lord's people will also be displayed, not as the basis of their acceptance, but to show the reality of their faith in the Savior." (Edmund Clowney)