

God's Will: Your Sanctification, Part 2

1) Definitions

Justification – our standing / position before God is declared to be “righteous” before God. This is not a righteousness of our own, but Christ’s righteousness imputed to our account.

Positional Sanctification – the initial endowment of a new heart that is free from the dominion of sin, such that we are able to and desire to live a holy life. When we receive a new “heart” at the moment of salvation, our nature is now different than everyone else in the world – thus we are called a “new man / new creation.”

Progressive Sanctification – the ongoing process of using that new heart and disposition to become more and more obedient to God in actual living by the assistance of the Spirit within.

Perfected Sanctification (Glorification) – the gift of a final freedom for our soul from the presence of sin at our death (or Lord’s return). In Christ’s presence we will be fully free from any desire or ability to sin against Him.

Definition: *that cooperative work between God and the Christian which progressively decreases sinfulness and makes one more like Jesus throughout life.*

2) Counterfeit Pursuits

Law Counterfeits

- a. Works Righteousness
- b. Law-Keeping as the Means to Sanctification
- c. Law-Keeping as the End of Sanctification

Grace Counterfeits – “Dis-Graces”

- a. Free Grace
- b. Let Go, Let God
- c. Laziness

Romans 6:15 – *Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace?*

3) How do we “Pursue Sanctification”?

Put off / Put on – Colossians 3

v. 5 – “*Put to death*” the earthly things within you...

Paul further expounds in v. 8 – “*Put them all aside*”
Like you take off a garment at the end of the day.

Put Off

What?

The deeds of our flesh (v. 5,8); the ways of our old life listed there.

Why?

v. 9-10

How?

- a. Humble Confession – agreeing with God on the matter and acknowledging your wrongness
- b. Radical Repentance – turning from / quitting.

Put On – v. 12

What?

v. 12-13 - The fruit of the Spirit, and ultimately the

love of the Spirit (v. 14)

How – what are the Tools ?

- a. Bible Reading and Meditation – v. 16
- b. Humble Prayer – v. 15
- c. Worship (personal and community) – v. 15-17
- d. Fellowship with other Christians – v. 15
- e. Devoted pursuit of Kingdom endeavors – v. 17

4) Benefits

- a. Clean Conscience (lack of guilt) – Rom 13:5
- b. Being Useful to the Lord – 2 Tim 2:20-21, 2 Pet 1:8
- c. Promoting Christ to Unbelievers – Matt 5:16, 1 Pet 2:12, 3:1
- d. Present Blessings – 1 Pet 3:9-12, Phil 4:9, Heb 12:2, Mark 10:30 (along with persecutions)

- e. Avoid God's Painful Discipline – Heb 12:3-11
- f. Future Reward – 1 Cor 3:12-15, 2 Cor 5:9-10
- g. Deepened Fellowship with other Believers – Phil 1:3-7, 27
- h. New Delight in Good – Phil 4:8, Ps 40:8

5) Motive for Growing in Holiness

Paul says in v. 14 – *And beyond all these things, put on love.*

John 14:15, 21, 23 – *If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him. We will come to him and make our abode with him.*

John 15:13 – *Greater love has no man than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.*

Praxis

1. Can you clearly verbalize the difference between salvation and sanctification?
2. "The struggles of living well for Jesus now will make your eternity sweeter." Agree or Disagree? Explain. Illustrate.
3. Consider the 3 strains of legalism... as Salvation, as Means, as End. Which do you lean toward? Remedy?
4. Consider the 3 strains of "dis-grace"... What is missing from each?
5. Which of the sanctification tools are your regular habit? your regular neglect?
6. Thought Question: If love is to be our prime mover toward Sanctification, how does the Bible say we grow in love for God?