



# GRACE

Reformed Baptist Church

Soli ◇ Deo ◇ Gloria

## HOW GREAT A SALVATION, Part 6

### Understanding the *Ordo Salutis* [Order of Salvation] of God

#### The Doctrine of Sanctification

Romans 8:28-30

July 27, 2008

- 1.) The Covenant of Redemption [Decrees of God]
- 2.) Election
- 3.) The Outward Gospel Call
- 4.) Regeneration
- 5.) Conversion [Faith / Repentance]
- 6.) Justification
- 7.) Adoption

8.) Sanctification
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9.) Perseverance

10.) Death

11.) Glorification

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- When most Christians think of the doctrine of Sanctification, they think of the progressive transformation of the believer by which he is conformed/transformed into the image of Christ.
- Whereas this is certainly true, a study of Sanctification would actually be incomplete apart from first understanding the doctrine from a Past/Positional/Definitive perspective.

<b>I. Past [Posititonal] Sanctification</b>
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- One must first recognize that biblically God sanctifies **Himself**.

#### Leviticus 19:2

“<sup>2</sup> ‘Speak to all the congregation of the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.’”

**Ezekiel 38:23**

“I will magnify Myself, sanctify Myself, and make Myself known in the sight of many nations; and they will know that I am the LORD.”

- Next, God sanctifies **His name**.

**Ezekiel 36:23**

“I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD,’ declares the Lord GOD, ‘when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight.’”

- Thirdly, the Father sanctifies **His Son**.

**John 10:36**, His Son

“...do you say of Him, whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’?”

- Consequently, from these passages, it is clear that the concept of Sanctification not only means *progressive change*, but a *definitive setting apart* of someone.
- Not only this, since God is holy and perfect, we must never forget that this is His unchanging standard.

**Matthew 5:48**

“<sup>48</sup>Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

- Therefore, in the believer’s positional / past sanctification, he is **set apart by God** for a purpose.

**Exodus 19:6**

“<sup>6</sup>and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.”

**Leviticus 19:2**

“<sup>2</sup>Speak to all the congregation of the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.’”

**Leviticus 20:7**

“<sup>7</sup>You shall consecrate yourselves therefore and be holy, for I am the LORD your God.”

**1 Peter 2:9,**

“<sup>9</sup>But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God’s OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;”

- Biblically we are positionally sanctified *by Christ*.

### **Hebrews 13:12**

“<sup>12</sup>Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate.”

### **Hebrews 10:10-12, 14**

“<sup>10</sup>By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. <sup>11</sup>Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; <sup>12</sup>but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD, <sup>13</sup>waiting from that time onward UNTIL HIS ENEMIES BE MADE A FOOTSTOOL FOR HIS FEET. <sup>14</sup>For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.”

### **1 Corinthians 1:1-2**

“<sup>1</sup>Paul, called as an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, <sup>2</sup>To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours:”

- Furthermore, our past sanctification is by virtue of our **union with Christ**.

### **1 Corinthians 1:30**

“<sup>30</sup>But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,”

- Next, our past sanctification, like justification, is *through faith in Christ*.

### **Acts 26:18**

“<sup>18</sup>to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.”

- Since we are set apart and united with Christ through faith in Him, we are declared **saints**.

### **Philippians 1:1**

“<sup>1</sup>Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons:”

- Finally, our past sanctification, as it is by God and through Him, is perfectly complete, lacking nothing.

### **1 Corinthians 3:16-17**

“ 16Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? 17If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.”

### **1 Corinthians 6:9, 11**

“ 9Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, 11Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.”

### **1 Corinthians 6:11**

“Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.”

### **Acts 20:32**

“32 And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”

“Every Christian, the moment he becomes a Christian, by virtue of his union with Christ, is instantly constituted a ‘saint’ and enters into a new relationship with respect to the former reign of sin in his life and with God himself, in which relationship he ceases to be slave to sin and becomes a servant of Christ and of God. And the Christian is to take this breach with sin, constituted by his union with Christ, as seriously as God does and stop ‘presenting the members of his body as instruments of unrighteousness’ and start ‘presenting himself to God as one alive from the dead, and his members as instruments [or servants] of righteousness to God’ (Romans 6:13, 19). He has Paul’s own assurance that ‘sin will not lord it over him’ (Romans 16:14).”

Robert Reymond, *A New Systematic Theology of the Christian Faith*

- Although our past sanctification, like our justification, does not change us inwardly, it is the act whereby God sets us apart from the world, ensuring that we will be changed inwardly through His progressive sanctification of us, His people.

## **II. Present / Future [Progressive] Sanctification**

“[Sanctification in] its narrower, or strict, sense [is] the inward spiritual transformation of the believer, which follows upon, and is inseparably joined with, justification.”

John Theodore Mueller, *Christian Dogmatics*, p. 384

- First of all, it is God who sanctifies us [progressively].

### **Philippians 1:6**

“ 6For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.”

### **Philippians 2:13**

“<sup>13</sup>for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”

### **1 Thessalonians 5:23**

“<sup>23</sup>Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- It is difficult to attribute our sanctification to only one person of the Godhead; it is an act of all three Persons of the Trinity. However, it is clear that our sanctification is done on the basis of **Christ’s completed work**. That is, **Christ earned our sanctification for us**.

### **1 Corinthians 1:30**

“<sup>30</sup>But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,”

- In other places, we see sanctification as a work of **the Son**.

### **1 Thessalonians 3:12-13**

“<sup>12</sup>and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also do for you; <sup>13</sup>so that He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.”

- Scripture also reveals that sanctification is an act of **the Father**.

### **Hebrews 13:20-21**

“<sup>20</sup>Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, <sup>21</sup>equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.”

- Most certainly sanctification is also an act of the Person of the **Holy Spirit**.

### **Titus 3:5**

“<sup>5</sup>He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,”

### **1 Peter 1:2**

“<sup>2</sup>according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.”

## **2 Thessalonians 2:13**

“<sup>13</sup>But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.”

- Yet, we must remember that our sanctification will not be complete until our death and subsequent glorification.

## **Hebrews 12:23**

“<sup>23</sup>to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,”

## **Philippians 3:21**

“<sup>21</sup>who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.”

- However, unlike our regeneration, justification, and past sanctification, Scripture indicates [contrary to some theologians] that **believers have a responsibility** in our progressive sanctification.

## **Leviticus 20:7**

“<sup>7</sup>You shall consecrate yourselves therefore and be holy, for I am the LORD your God.”

## **1 Thessalonians 4:3-7**

“<sup>3</sup>For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; <sup>4</sup>that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, <sup>5</sup>not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; <sup>6</sup>and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you. <sup>7</sup>For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification.”

## **1 Peter 1:14-19**

“<sup>14</sup>As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, <sup>15</sup>but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; <sup>16</sup>because it is written, ‘YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.’ <sup>17</sup>If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth; <sup>18</sup>knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, <sup>19</sup>but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.”

## **Romans 12:1-2**

“<sup>1</sup>Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. <sup>2</sup>And do

not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

### **Hebrews 12:1-2**

“<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup>fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

### **2 Corinthians 7:1**

“<sup>1</sup>Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

### **Romans 8:13**

“<sup>13</sup>for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.”

- The LORD has also established **His means** through which we are sanctified.
  - First, we are sanctified through **biblical fellowship**.
  - We must not forget that, in our human nature, we become like those we are around.

### **Philippians 1:27**

“<sup>27</sup>Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;”

### **Ephesians 5:18-20**

“<sup>18</sup>And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup>speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; <sup>20</sup>always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;”

### **Hebrews 10:24-25**

“<sup>24</sup>and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup>not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”

### **1 Peter 2:5**

“<sup>5</sup>you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

### **1 Thessalonians 5:11**

“<sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.”

- Secondly, we are sanctified **through prayer**.

### **Ephesians 6:18**

“<sup>18</sup>With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,”

### **Philippians 4:6**

“<sup>6</sup>Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”

- Thirdly, we are also sanctified **through sufferings**.

### **1 Peter 2:21**

“<sup>21</sup>For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,”

- One of the greatest blessings of suffering for Christ’s sake is that it “uproots” us from this world.
- We are no longer entangled by the trappings and temporary enticements this world has to offer.

### **1 John 2:15**

“<sup>15</sup>Do not love the world nor the things in the world If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”

- The satisfaction of the joy of LORD is always greater than the fleeting gratification of sin and what this world has to offer.
- Yet, the **primary** means through which God sanctifies us is **His Word**.

### **Psalms 1:2**

“<sup>1</sup>How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,  
Nor stand in the path of sinners,  
Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!  
<sup>2</sup>But his delight is in the law of the LORD,  
And in His law he meditates day and night.”

### **Matthew 4:4**

“<sup>4</sup>But He answered and said, ‘It is written, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.’”



### John 17:17

“<sup>17</sup>Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.”

- For, it is only through God’s word that we are truly transformed through the renewing of our minds [Romans 12:1-2].
- It is only through meditation on the Word of God that we can “take every thought captive.”

### 2 Corinthians 10:5

“<sup>5</sup>We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,”

“As apostasy began in the *pneuma* (spirit), and affected the other parts of human nature, sanctification begins in the *pneuma* and passes throughout the soul and body. A man can control his physical appetites, in proportion as he has a vivid spiritual perception of God and divine things. The intuition of the *pneuma* restrains the appetites of the psyche (soul) and soma (body). If spiritual perception be dim, the bodily appetite is strong.”

W.G.T. Shedd, *Dogmatic Theology* ii, p. 554

- May we never forget that, just as the Holy Spirit never acts independently of the Word of God, so our sanctification never occurs in a “vacuum”; it is **always** in accordance with the Scriptures.
- So instrumental is the Word of God in our sanctification, that Robert Culver, in his *Systematic Theology* notes “twelve sorts of relevant passages showing Scripture itself to be the instrument of sanctification. Such passages...:
  1. Connect Spiritual life with truth (John 6:63; 8:32);
  2. Teaching truth promotes obedience (Psalm 119:50, 93);
  3. Ascribe quickening power to the Word of God;
  4. Usefulness in preventing sin (Psalm 119:104);
  5. Cleansing from sin (Psalm 119:9; 1 Peter 1:22);
  6. Produces hatred of sin (Psalm 119:104);
  7. Power to lead to salvation (2 Timothy 3:15-17);
  8. “All things that pertain to life and godliness” through “the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord” (2 Peter 1:2, 3);
  9. Growth in grace due to greater knowledge (Hebrews 5:12-14);
  10. Weakness is traced to an infant level of knowledge (1 Corinthians 3:1-3);
  11. The Word of God as “sword of the Spirit” (Ephesians 6:17);
  12. All the gifts for ministry of divine knowledge are “For the perfecting of the saints” (Ephesians 4:11-16 KJV).
- Furthermore, through the study of and meditation upon God’s Word, we learn to love the LORD even more, thus leading us into a deeper life of devotion and obedience to Him.

**John 14:15, 21**

“<sup>15</sup>If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. <sup>21</sup>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.”

**1 John 5:3**

“<sup>3</sup>For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.”

“Indeed, the more sanctified the person is, the more conformed he is to the image of his Savior, the more he must recoil against every lack of conformity to the holiness of God. The deeper his apprehension of the majesty of God, the greater the intensity of his love to God, the more persistent his yearning for the attainment of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, the more the conscious will he be of the gravity of the sin that remains and the more poignant will be his detestation of it... Was this not the effect in all the people of God as they came into closer proximity to the revelation of God’s holiness?”

John Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*

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- Yet, ultimately, our sanctification is an “uprooting” from the world and restoration of the image of God in us, through the conforming of us to Christ, who is the Perfect image of God.

**Colossians 1:13-15**

“<sup>13</sup>For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, <sup>14</sup>in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. <sup>15</sup>He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.”

**2 Corinthians 4:3-4**

“<sup>3</sup>And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, <sup>4</sup>in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

**Colossians 3:10**

“<sup>10</sup>and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him.”

**2 Corinthians 3:18**

“<sup>18</sup>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 from the Lord, the Spirit.”

- The truth of the Christian life, however, is that we often times fail; yet, we take great comfort in the words of the Apostle Paul.

**Philippians 3:13-14**

“<sup>13</sup>Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

- Yet, as we look forward, may we do so with an eye to our Savior – the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Hebrews 12:1-2**

“<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup>fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”