

Walking in Sanctification

(or “Walking by Faith,” or “Walking in Perfection”)

- A. Obedience, sanctification, holiness are demanded and expected of us. [read references]
- B. Sanctification means “to be set apart.”
 - 1. Examples: a cat dish, a toothbrush, the fine china.
 - 2. We are to be sanctified
 - a. from something
 - b. to something
- C. The doctrine of sanctification applies to three different aspects of our lives – past, present, and future – though the *present* is usually what we refer to as sanctification.
 - 1. Past
 - a. When we became Christians, we were set apart *from* the penalty of sin, and *to* forgiveness.
 - b. This part of sanctification is commonly called “justification.”
 - 2. Present
 - a. We are being set apart from the *power* of sin.
 - i. “Sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under the law but under grace.” (Romans 6:14)
 - ii. “However, you are not in the flesh [that is, ‘in bondage to sin’ – Romans 7:14] but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.” (Romans 8:9)
 - b. Commonly referred to as “sanctification.” This is the main subject of today’s study.
 - 3. Future
 - a. We will be set aside from the *presence* of sin.
 - b. This is commonly called “glorification.” (The Bible also uses “glorification” to refer to the present.)
- D. Each of these aspects of sanctification correspond to different realms of our beings.
 - 1. The *past* aspect of our sanctification, which is called “justification,” deals with us in the realm of our spirits.
 - a. “Whereas once you were dead, separated from God in your spirit, because of your sins.” ()
 - b. “Your sins have separated between you and your God.” ()
 - c. “You have been made alive who were dead, through the trespasses and sins, in which you walked.”
 - d. “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,” (Ephesians 2:1)

- e. "But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)," (Ephesians 2:45-6)
 - f. "When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions," (Colossians 2:13)
 - g. When we became Christians, our spirits were united with God, which is life.
"This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." (John 17:3)
2. The *present* aspect of our sanctification deals with us in the realm of our *souls*.
 - a. "We are receiving, as the outcome of our faith, the salvation [or the healing] of our souls." (1 Peter 1:9)
 3. The *future* aspect of our sanctification deals with us in the realm of our *bodies*.
 - a. Our bodies will be "changed."
 - b. We will receive new bodies.
 - c. They will be like His glorious body.
- E. The means by which these sanctifications happen are as follows:
1. Our spirits were brought into life with God and our relationship with God restored when the penalty for our sins was forgiven us, through the *blood* shed on the cross.
"Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him." (Romans 5:9)
 2. The present aspect of sanctification, where we are being delivered in our souls from the power of sin happens through the *word* of God.
 - a. "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth." (John 17:17)
 - b. "so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word," (Ephesians 5:26)
 - c. "'You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.'" (John 15:3)
 3. In the *future*, our bodies will be raised from the dead by the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead. (Romans 8)
 4. Duration
 - a. Past (justification) was instantaneous.
 - b. Future (being resurrected or changed) will be instantaneous.
 - c. Our present sanctification is a *process*.
 5. So we have the blood, the word, and the Spirit as in 1 John 5:6-8 (where "water" means "word"):
"This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water

and with the blood It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.”

F. What Sanctification or Christian Perfection Is Not

1. It is not a change in the substance of the soul or body or mind.
2. It is not a change in the appetites.
3. It is not faultlessness.
4. It is not fulfilling any obligation that would imply a greater ability or capacity than we presently have.
5. It is not claiming a victory that we don't have.
 - a. It is not a “standing” or a “position.”
 - b. He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous, Both of them alike are an abomination to the LORD. (Proverbs 17:15) Yet this is what we do when we say “ it doesn't matter how righteous an unbeliever is, he's going to Hell;” and “I'm no better than anyone else, I'm just a sinner saved by grace.” or “Christians aren't perfect, just forgiven.”
 - c. “You have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet you say, ‘How have we wearied Him?’ In that you say, ‘Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and He delights in them,’ or, ‘Where is the God of justice?’” (Malachi 2:17)
 - d. Having a sinful root extracted.
 - i. This is a metaphysical view of sin and sanctification—which would be an inferior type of relationship with God.
6. It is not simply a disapprobation for sin, which is a necessary result of intellect and emotions, a quality that the sinner possesses as well.
7. It does not imply freedom from temptation.

G. What *Is* Sanctification (Christian Perfection)

1. It is living the way God lives
 - a. Jesus was our example in this:
 - i. “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, WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH;” (1 Peter 2:21-22)
 - ii. “For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.” (Hebrews 1:15)
 - b. “You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.” (Leviticus 11:44; 11:45; 19:2; 20:7; 20:26)
 - c. “but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior;” (1 Peter 1:15)
 - d. “Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” (Matthew 5:48)
2. Sanctification is a choice.

- a. If you have a metaphysical view of sin, you will have a metaphysical view of sanctification.
 - i. With this view, sin is a permanent state.
- b. If you have a moral view of sin, then you can choose to live without sin, one moment at a time.

H. Reasons People Don't Walk in Perfection

1. Because they are confused about the nature of sin, so they think it is impossible.
 - a. Since God condemns sin, if you believe sin is ontological, you will question God's justice on some level of your consciousness, more and more so as you struggle with sin.
2. Because they don't hate sin.

"By lovingkindness and truth iniquity is atoned for, and by the fear of the LORD one keeps away from evil." (Proverbs 16:6)

 - a. The "fear of the lord" is to revere God to the point that we hate what He hates and we love what He loves. "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way. And the perverted mouth, I hate." (Proverbs 8:13)
 - b. We are to *choose* the fear of the Lord. "Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD." (Proverbs 1:29)
3. Because they've never dealt with their past sins properly.
 - a. They've not repented.
 - b. They've not confessed their sin to God and accepted their true guilt.
 - c. They've never faced the fact that they deserve to be punished for their sins. (Maybe they were brought to Christ with a message promising happiness or heaven.)
 - d. Maybe they weren't baptized.
 - e. Maybe they have not made restitution.
 - i. A changed hear makes a person want to undo the harm he has done.
 - ii. Numbers 5:5-8 says, "For every sin which a man commits against any of the commands of the Lord he shall make restitution in full for it."
 - iii. Besides repairing the damage we did, restitution has the added benefit of removing the temptation toward that particular sin, because we've examined the destruction that it causes.
4. Because they believe the accusation of the enemy against them.
 - a. Let God search your heart, don't judge yourself.
 - i. "All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight, but the LORD weighs the motives." (Proverbs 16:2)
 - ii. ³But to me it is a very small thing that I may be examined by you, or by any human court; in fact, I do not even examine myself. ⁴For I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted; but the one who examines me is the Lord. ⁵Therefore do not go on passing judgment

before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God. (1 Corinthians 4:3-5)

- iii. David prayed, "Lord, search my heart and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."
- b. "Conviction" is different from "condemnation."
 - i. Conviction
 - a. Is always *specific* – because sin is a choice of transgression against the law. The Holy Spirit will always convict us specifically because we always sin specifically.
 - b. It always points you to the cross. The Holy Spirit convicts you so that you can be forgiven and set free.
 - c. It always leaves you with a sense of joy.
 - ii. Condemnation
 - a. Is vague.
 - b. It points you to yourself.
 - c. It leaves you with a sense of despair
- c. If you feel condemnation, resist it as coming from yourself or the enemy.
 - i. "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." (Romans 8:1)
 - ii. "God sent not His son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world, through Him, might be saved."
 - iii. "Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us." (Romans 8:33-35)
- d. No Introspection
 - i. "Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, 'Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.'" (Revelation 12:10)
 - ii. Submit therefore to God Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)

References on Sanctification (New American Standard Bible)

Holiness is demanded and expected of us.

Deuteronomy 10:12–13

¹²"Now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require from you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,

¹³and to keep the LORD'S commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good?

Deuteronomy 11:22-23

²²"For if you are careful to keep all this commandment which I am commanding you to do, to love the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and hold fast to Him,

²³then the LORD will drive out all these nations from before you, and you will dispossess nations greater and mightier than you.

Deuteronomy 26:16-19

¹⁶"This day the LORD your God commands you to do these statutes and ordinances. You shall therefore be careful to do them with all your heart and with all your soul.

¹⁷"You have today declared the LORD to be your God, and that you would walk in His ways and keep His statutes, His commandments and His ordinances, and listen to His voice.

¹⁸"The LORD has today declared you to be His people, a treasured possession, as He promised you, and that you should keep all His commandments;

¹⁹and that He will set you high above all nations which He has made, for praise, fame, and honor; and that you shall be a consecrated people to the LORD your God, as He has spoken."

Deuteronomy 28:58-59

⁵⁸"If you are not careful to observe all the words of this law which are written in this book, to fear this honored and awesome name, the LORD your God,

⁵⁹then the LORD will bring extraordinary plagues on you and your descendants, even severe and lasting plagues, and miserable and chronic sicknesses.

Deuteronomy 30:8-14

⁸"And you shall again obey the LORD, and observe all His commandments which I command you today.

⁹"Then the LORD your God will prosper you abundantly in all the work of your hand, in the offspring of your body and in the offspring of your cattle and in the produce of your ground, for the LORD will again rejoice over you for good, just as He rejoiced over your fathers;

¹⁰if you obey the LORD your God to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this book of the law, if you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and soul.

¹¹"For this commandment which I command you today is not too difficult for you, nor is it out of reach.

¹²"It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will go up to heaven for us to get it for us and make us hear it, that we may observe it?'

¹³"Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will cross the sea for us to get it for us and make us hear it, that we may observe it?'

¹⁴"But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may observe it.

Psalm 4:4

Tremble, and do not sin;

1 Corinthians 15:34

Become sober-minded as you ought, and stop sinning; for some have no knowledge of God I speak this to your shame.

1 John 2:1-2

¹My little children, I am writing these things to you so *that you may not sin*. And *if anyone sins*, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;

²and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

1 Peter 1:15-16

¹⁵but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior;

¹⁶because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

Matthew 5:48

"Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

John 5:14

Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "Behold, you have become well; *do not sin anymore*, so that nothing worse happens to you."

John 8:11

She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on sin no more."

1 Thessalonians 5:23

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.

Is it by works or by grace?

John 6:27-29

²⁷"Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal."

²⁸Therefore they said to Him, "What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?"

²⁹Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."

Ephesians 2:8–10

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;

⁹not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

¹⁰For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Romans 6:14

For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

2 Thessalonians 2:13

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.