

Simon Field / General Adult

Theology for Life

Ephesians 2:8–10 “For you are saved [perfect passive] by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God’s gift—not from works, so that no one can boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.”

I. Justification and Sanctification: The “Double Benefit” of Union with Christ

Two errors

- Confusing justification and sanctification
- Separating justification and sanctification

1 Corinthians 1:30 “It is from him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom from God for us—our righteousness, sanctification, and redemption”

Romans 6:1 “What should we say then? Should we continue in sin so that grace may multiply?”

- What would a legalist say?
- What would an antinomian say?
- The gospel says Romans 6:2 “Absolutely not! How can we who died to sin still live in it?”

Big idea: If we think of sanctification apart from union with Christ it becomes self improvement.

- Galatians 3:3 “Are you so foolish? After beginning by the Spirit, are you now finishing by the flesh?”

II. What is Holiness?

Holiness is about separation

- “In Hebrew and Greek the verb to sanctify is the verb to cut. God’s act of sanctifying

cuts people, places, and things away from their ordinary association for his own use." - Michael Horton

Holiness is also a moral quality

- 1 Peter 3:15 "but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy" or "sanctify Christ" meaning treat him as sacred

Holiness is given to believers

- 1 Corinthians 1:2 "To the church of God at Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called as saints [holy ones]"
- John 15:3 "You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you."

III. Growth in Sanctification

Romans 12:1 "Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship."

- What can we learn about growing in sanctification from this verse?

Indicatives and Imperatives

- Colossians 3:12–14 "Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive. Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity."

Mortification (Dying) and Vivification (Rising)

- Romans 8:10–11 "Now if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then he who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through his Spirit who lives in you."

"Your real, new self (which is Christ's and also yours, and yours just because it is His) will not come as long as you are looking for it... It will come when you are looking for Him" - C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

IV. The Already and Not Yet of Sanctification

Salvation is now and not yet

- Romans 8:23 “Not only that, but we ourselves who have the Spirit as the firstfruits—we also groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.”

We need to avoid perfectionism by remembering the struggle with sin of Romans 7

- Romans 7:22–23 “For in my inner self I delight in God’s law, but I see a different law in the parts of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and taking me prisoner to the law of sin in the parts of my body.”

We need to avoid defeatism by remembering the victory over sin of Romans 6

- Romans 6:6 “For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be rendered powerless so that we may no longer be enslaved to sin,”

V. Perseverance of the Saints

Salvation is secure

- John 6:37–39 “Everyone the Father gives me will come to me, and the one who comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. This is the will of him who sent me: that I should lose none of those he has given me but should raise them up on the last day.”
- Philippians 1:6 “I am sure of this, that he who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

Salvation is shown

- 1 John 2:19–20 “They went out from us, but they did not belong to us; for if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us. However, they went out so that it might be made clear that none of them belongs to us.
- Colossians 1:22–23 “But now he has reconciled you by his physical body through his death, to present you holy, faultless, and blameless before him—if indeed you remain grounded and steadfast in the faith and are not shifted away from the hope of the gospel that you heard.