

*GraceLife Church Presents . . .*

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# Soteriology

The Purpose,  
Accomplishment, Plan, and  
Application of Redemption

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# The Application of Redemption

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## Sanctification

- ❖ The focus thus far on sanctification has been on what it is and God's work in it.
- ❖ Sanctification is the the process in our lives in which we are increasingly separated *from* sin and devoted *to* God.
- ❖ It is God working to make us more like Christ.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## Sanctification

- ❖ Sanctification begins at the moment of regeneration.
- ❖ We are born again, given a new heart, our nature changed in regeneration, a new principle of righteousness is implanted in us.
- ❖ Regeneration is entirely the work of God, we play no part in our regeneration.
- ❖ This new nature is the first part (step) in sanctification.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## Sanctification

- ❖ At the moment of regeneration we are *sanctified* in the sense that we are *set apart* for God and his purposes.
- ❖ This is initial (or definitive) sanctification.
- ❖ Regeneration is newness of life that results in repentance and faith (conversion).

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# The Application of Redemption

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## Sanctification

- ❖ Repentance and faith play an ongoing work in sanctification.
- ❖ We continue to see new areas of sin in our lives that we turn from.
- ❖ We continue to trust in Christ not only for right standing with God but also to change us internally and produce the fruit of the Spirit in our lives.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## Sanctification

- ❖ Justification and adoption also play a role in our sanctification.
- ❖ Knowing that we are justified by faith gives our relationship with God a secure foundation.
  - ❖ We are safe to grow. We can face our sin without despair because we are righteous in God's sight.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## Sanctification

- ❖ We have been adopted as God's children and therefore we have the assurance that God is committed to us as a holy Father. He will complete the work he began in us.
- ❖ Plus because of adoption God has sent the Holy Spirit to indwell us (Gal 4:6). He gives us assurance and produces holy fruit in our lives.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## Sanctification

- ❖ Another thing God has done for us that prepares the way for progressive sanctification is that he has united us to Christ in his death and resurrection.
- ❖ We have been crucified with Christ such that the enslaving power of sin has been broken. We have been redeemed from our former bondage.
- ❖ We have died to sin through union with Christ.



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# The Application of Redemption

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## Sanctification

What has God done to prepare us for growth in Christlikeness?

1. He made us alive with Christ. We are new creatures in Christ.
2. He has crucified us with Christ so that sin should no longer have dominion over us.
3. He has given his Holy Spirit to indwell us and to transform us.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## Sanctification

- ❖ Despite these benefits there is an ongoing battle within us for holiness, growth, and sanctification.
- ❖ We must be killing sin, fighting sin, resisting temptation.
- ❖ The flesh lusts against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please (Gal 5:17).

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# The Application of Redemption

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## Definition of Sanctification

“Sanctification is a progressive work of God and man that makes us more and more free from sin and like Christ in our actual lives.”

Wayne Grudem, *Bible Doctrine*, 326.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## Sanctification

- ❖ In the remainder of our time today I want to give you 4 key truths about sanctification.
- ❖ The first two are primarily review but it should be helpful to see sanctification broken up this way.
- ❖ We will spend the majority of our time on the third and fourth key truths.

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# The Application of Redemption

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## Four Key Truths about Sanctification

1. Sanctification is a supernatural internal transformation of the heart.
2. Sanctification is therefore primarily a work of the Holy Spirit.
3. Sanctification is also something we are responsible to vigorously pursue.
4. Sanctification happens through the use of God-given means.

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# Sanctification

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## (1) A Supernatural Internal Transformation

- ❖ Sanctification involves a transformation at the deepest level of who we are.
- ❖ It is a transformation, not only of the outward man, but of the inward man first.
- ❖ It is a change of the heart—mind, emotions, affections, will, that results in a change of our outward behaviour.

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# Sanctification

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## (1) A Supernatural Internal Transformation

- ❖ Because sanctification involves this internal change of the heart, we cannot *directly* affect this change.
- ❖ How can we change our heart desires?
- ❖ We cannot grab our wills by the bootstraps and make them conform to God's holy and good standards.

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# Sanctification

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## (1) A Supernatural Internal Transformation

- ❖ Especially if we realize that God's commands speak not only to our actions but also to our emotions.
- ❖ For example, Luke 9:23 and Philippians 4:4.



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# Sanctification

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## (1) A Supernatural Internal Transformation

**Luke 9:23** And He was saying to *them* all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

**Phil 4:4** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!

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# Sanctification

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## (1) A Supernatural Internal Transformation

- ❖ In order to rejoice in the Lord *and* deny myself, pick up my cross and follow Christ God is going to have to change my desires and what I consider joyful.
- ❖ Sanctification is a supernatural internal work.
- ❖ We are 'being transformed.'

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# Sanctification

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## (1) A Supernatural Internal Transformation

**2 Cor 3:17** Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, *there* is liberty. **18** 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.

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# Sanctification

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## (1) A Supernatural Internal Transformation

“Paul speaks of sanctification as the believer’s ‘being transformed’ into the image of Christ, a term that describes an inward change in fundamental character.”

John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, 635.

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# Sanctification

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## (1) A Supernatural Internal Transformation

**Rom 12:1** 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.* **2** 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.

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# Sanctification

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## (1) A Supernatural Internal Transformation

“our word ‘transformed’ is used in contrast with the term ‘conformed,’ which refers to a change in the outward behavior. So the contrast is clear. Paul is saying: Do not be conformed, outwardly, such that your behavior is indistinguishable from the world. Instead be *transformed*, from the inside out. And even here, we see that that transformation happens by the renewing of the *mind*—more internal language.”

Michael Riccardi, *Sanctification*, 9.

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# Sanctification

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## (1) A Supernatural Internal Transformation

“Therefore, believers should not conceive of holiness as the reformation of external behaviors, in which people bend their wills to perform duties for which they have no Godward motive; rather, believers must recognize that sanctification consists fundamentally in the miraculous inward transformation of the affections.”

John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, 639.

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# Sanctification

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## (1) A Supernatural Internal Transformation

“While the holy person certainly does what God commands, he does so because he loves God and loves what God loves. Sanctification is the spiritual transformation of the mind and the affections that in turn redirects the will and the actions.”

John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, 639–40.



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# Sanctification

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## (1) A Supernatural Internal Transformation

**Phil 2:12** So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; **13** for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.

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# Sanctification

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## (1) A Supernatural Internal Transformation

- ❖ This leads naturally into the next heading, because sanctification is supernatural and internal it must be primarily achieved by a *divine* agent.
- ❖ We are dependent upon God who works *in* us and transforms us by his grace.

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# Sanctification

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## (2) By the Holy Spirit

- ❖ God is working in us and he is doing so primarily by the person of the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ Because sanctification involves us growing in holiness it makes sense that the Holy Spirit is the agent chiefly credited for this work.

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# Sanctification

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## (2) By the Holy Spirit

**1 Thess 3:12** 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; **13** 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.

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# Sanctification

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## (2) By the Holy Spirit

**2 Cor 3:17** Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, *there* is liberty. **18** 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.

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# Sanctification

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## (2) By the Holy Spirit

**Gal 5:17** For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

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# Sanctification

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## (2) By the Holy Spirit

**Gal 5:22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

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# Sanctification

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## (2) By the Holy Spirit

**Rom 8:12** So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh — **13** 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.



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# Sanctification

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## (2) By the Holy Spirit

“The next principle relates to the great sovereign cause of the mortification treated of; which, in the words laid for the foundation of this discourse, is said to be the Spirit, — that is, the Holy Ghost, as was evinced. II. He only is sufficient for this work; all ways and means without him are as a thing of nought; and he is the great efficient of it, — he works in us as he pleases.”

John Owen, “The Mortification of Sin,” in *The Works of John Owen*, 6:16.

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# Sanctification

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## (2) By the Holy Spirit

“III. In which war, although the remaining corruption for a time may much prevail, yet, through the continual supply of strength from the sanctifying Spirit of Christ, the regenerate part doth overcome; and so the saints grow in grace, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

Westminster Confession of Faith, XIII.

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# Sanctification

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## (2) By the Holy Spirit

- ❖ We are dependent on God the Holy Spirit to cleanse us from sin and incline our hearts love him and live for him.
- ❖ Without the Spirit we would not and could not be sanctified.
- ❖ Without Christ we can do nothing (John 15:5). Christ indwells us by the Spirit.

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# Sanctification

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## (2) By the Holy Spirit

- ❖ The fact that sanctification is a supernatural internal transformation by the Holy Spirit might lead us to think that we have no part in it.
- ❖ Some people teach sanctification that way. Higher life, Keswick, Andrew Murray (*Absolute Surrender*), Ron Marr (*A Christianity that Really Works*), etc.
- ❖ This is the idea “let go and let God.”

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# Sanctification

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## (2) By the Holy Spirit

- ❖ While we in no way want to diminish our absolute dependence on the Holy Spirit in this work, we also must uphold the Scripture's teaching that we are involved.
- ❖ There are similarities between God's sovereignty and human responsibility in salvation and in sanctification.

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# Sanctification

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## (2) By the Holy Spirit

- ❖ In salvation man is responsible to repent and believe and yet he is morally unable to do so. Man is unwilling.
- ❖ Man is not lacking the capacity to repent and believe, but he is lacking the desire to turn to God. Man is still culpable (responsible) for his choice.
- ❖ In salvation God must take the initiative and grant regeneration, repentance, and faith to make man willing.

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# Sanctification

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## (2) By the Holy Spirit

- ❖ God's work in our regeneration is monergistic. God alone works to open our eyes, raise us from spiritual death, and grant us eternal life.
- ❖ Salvation is not synergistic, we don't work together with God for salvation.
- ❖ In sanctification there are similarities to this but there is not an exact correspondence.

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# Sanctification

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## (2) By the Holy Spirit

- ❖ In sanctification we are absolutely dependent upon an internal work of the Holy Spirit that we cannot do in ourselves.
- ❖ However, we are still involved in our sanctification and very much active in it.
- ❖ Sanctification is not monergistic in that it is entirely up to God without any contribution from us, nor is it synergistic as though we are working together with God.



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# Sanctification

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## (2) By the Holy Spirit

- ❖ Sanctification is God working in us through the use of God appointed means.
- ❖ We are to be diligently involved and at the same time entirely dependent.
- ❖ Jerry Bridges called this 'dependent responsibility.'
- ❖ Neither monergistic, nor synergistic. God and man are working in different ways in sanctification.

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# Sanctification

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## (3) By Actively Pursuing

- ❖ We are very much to be active in this work, not in changing our hearts but in pursuing the things that God has appointed through which he promises to transform our lives.
- ❖ Throughout the New Testament *we* are commanded to *be* transformed.
- ❖ That transformation, though not performed by us is still our responsibility.

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# Sanctification

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## (3) By Actively Pursuing

“While we are constantly dependent upon the supernatural agency of the Holy Spirit, we must also take account of the fact that sanctification is a process that draws within its scope the conscious life of the believer. The sanctified are not passive or quiescent in this process. Nothing shows this more clearly than the exhortation of the apostle:”

John Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*, 157.

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# Sanctification

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## (3) By Actively Pursuing

**Phil 2:12** So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; **13** for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.

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# Sanctification

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## (3) By Actively Pursuing

“God’s working in us is not suspended because we work, nor our working suspended because God works. Neither is the relation strictly one of co-operation as if God did his part and we did ours so that the conjunction or co-ordination of both produced the required result. God works in us and we also work. But the relation is that *because* God works we work.”

John Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*, 157.

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# Sanctification

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## (3) By Actively Pursuing

“So far from being an excuse not to work, God’s sanctifying work in believers is the very ground of their efforts.”

John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, 640.

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# Sanctification

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## (3) By Actively Pursuing

- ❖ We are not called to save ourselves but to work out the salvation that has been accomplished.
- ❖ We do so with fear and trembling because God is working *in* us.
- ❖ Still, *we* are called to work it out. And this kind of active language is found throughout the NT.

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# Sanctification

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## (3) By Actively Pursuing

**Rom 8:12** So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh — **13** 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.



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# Sanctification

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## (3) By *Actively Pursuing*

**Heb 12:14** Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.

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# Sanctification

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## (3) By Actively Pursuing

**Col 3:1** Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. **3** For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. **5** Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.

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# Sanctification

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## (3) By Actively Pursuing

**1 Cor 6:18** Flee immorality. Every *other* sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.

**1 Thess 4:3** For this is the will of God, your sanctification; *that is*, that you abstain from sexual immorality;

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# Sanctification

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## (3) By Actively Pursuing

**2 Cor 7:1** Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

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# Sanctification

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## (3) By Actively Pursuing

“The assumption is that there is defilement of flesh and spirit and that we ourselves are to be actively engaged in cleansing ourselves from that defilement, just as on the more positive side we are to perfect holiness in the fear of God.”

John Murray, “Progressive Sanctification,” in *The Collected Writings of John Murray*, 2:296.

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# Sanctification

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## (3) By Actively Pursuing

**2 Tim 2:22** Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love *and* peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

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# Sanctification

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## (3) By Actively Pursuing

**Titus 2:11** For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, **12** instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, **13** looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, **14** who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

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# Sanctification

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## (3) By Actively Pursuing

1 John 3:3 And everyone who has this hope *fixed* on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.



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# Sanctification

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## (3) By Actively Pursuing

2 Pet 1:2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; 3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. 4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. 5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence,

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# Sanctification

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## (3) By Actively Pursuing

“Yes, the Spirit enables us. Without him we are powerless. But he never turns us into automations. He never relieves us of the responsibility of living for the glory of Jesus Christ.”

Sinclair Ferguson, *Devoted to God*, 144.

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# Sanctification

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## (3) By Actively Pursuing

“So here is a critical issue in our progress: *Do we really want to overcome sin?* For there seems to be a principle in sanctification: in some measure we get what we desire. Or, to put it more bluntly, we get what we are prepared to pay for. For the language that both Paul and Jesus use about dealing with sin is tinged with personal cost, indeed with violence and pain: [Matt 5:29–30; Col 3:1, 5]”

Sinclair Ferguson, *Devoted to God*, 146.

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# Sanctification

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## (3) By Actively Pursuing

- ❖ If sanctification is fundamentally internal and supernatural transformation by the Holy Spirit and yet we are to actively pursue it and responsible for it, the question comes, 'how then, do we pursue what we are unable to do in ourselves?'
- ❖ The answer is, 'we must pursue the use of the means of grace that God has promised to use in our transformation.'

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# Sanctification

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## (4) God Appointed Means

“Thus, while believers cannot directly effect the inner transformation of sanctification for their souls and while sanctification is properly said to be the Spirit’s work, believers are not entirely passive in sanctification. Instead, the Holy Spirit effects his sanctifying transformation in the hearts of believers through the use of means that must be appropriated.”

John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, 641.

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# Sanctification

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## (4) God Appointed Means

“Sanctification involves the concentration of thought, of interest, of heart, mind, will, and purpose upon the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus and the engagement of our whole being with those means which God has instituted for the attainment of that destination.”

John Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*, 158–59.

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# Sanctification

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## (4) God Appointed Means

“All the art and industry of man cannot form the smallest herb, or make a stalk of corn to grow in the field; it is the energy of nature, and the influences of Heaven, which produce this effect. It is God “who causeth the grass to grow, and herb for the service of man;” and yet nobody will say, that the labours of the husbandman are useless or unnecessary.”

Henry Scougal, *The Life of God in the Soul of Man*, 81.

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# Sanctification

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## (4) God Appointed Means

“Though there must intervene a stroke of Omnipotence to effect this mighty change in our souls, yet ought we to do what we can to fit and prepare ourselves; for we must break up our fallow ground, and root out the weeds, and pull up the thorns, that so we may be more ready to receive the seeds of grace, and the dew of heaven.”

Henry Scougal, *The Life of God in the Soul of Man*, 81–2.



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# Sanctification

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## (4) God Appointed Means

“It is true, God hath been found of some who sought Him not. He hath cast himself in their way, who were quite out of his. He hath laid hold upon them, and stopped their course on a sudden; for so was St. Paul converted in his journey to Damascus. But certainly this is not God’s ordinary method of dealing with men. Though he hath not tied himself to means, yet he hath tied us to the use of them; and we have never more reason to expect the divine assistance, than when we are doing our utmost endeavours.”

Henry Scougal, *The Life of God in the Soul of Man*, 81–2.

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# Sanctification

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## (4) God Appointed Means

“The ‘means of grace’ are such as Bible reading, private prayer, and regularly worshipping God in church, wherein one hears the Word taught and participates in the Lord’s Supper. I lay it down as a simple matter of fact that no one who is careless about such things must ever expect to make much progress in sanctification.”

J.C. Ryle, *Holiness! Its Nature, Hindrances, Difficulties, and Roots*, 28.

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# Sanctification

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## (4) God Appointed Means

*Scripture*

**2 Tim 3:16** All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; **17** so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

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# Sanctification

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## (4) God Appointed Means

### *Scripture*

**Ps 1:2** But his delight is in the law of the LORD,  
And in His law he meditates day and night.

**Ps 1:3** He will be like a tree *firmly* planted by streams of water,  
Which yields its fruit in its season  
And its leaf does not wither;  
And in whatever he does, he prospers.

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# Sanctification

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## (4) God Appointed Means

### *Scripture*

- Ps 19:7**      The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul;  
The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.
- Ps 19:8**      The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;  
The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.
- Ps 19:9**      The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;  
The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether.
- Ps 19:10**     They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold;  
Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.
- Ps 19:11**     Moreover, by them Your servant is warned;  
In keeping them there is great reward.

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# Sanctification

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## (4) God Appointed Means

*Scripture*

**1 Pet 2:2** like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,

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# Sanctification

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## (4) God Appointed Means

*Scripture*

**Acts 20:32** “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.

**John 17:17** “Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

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# Sanctification

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## (4) God Appointed Means

### *Scripture*

“So one of the ways we can be working out our salvation with fear and trembling is to be diligent and disciplined in reading the Word of God. And not just reading it, but *studying* it—meditating on it and ruminating on it throughout the day, submitting our thinking and our opinions to what we find in its pages. If we are commanded to be transformed by the renewing of our *minds* (Rom 12:2), we must *saturate* our minds with the Scripture by which our minds are renewed.”

Michael Riccardi, *Sanctification*, 22.



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# Sanctification

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## (4) God Appointed Means

### *Scripture*

- ❖ Are you spending time in the word?
- ❖ Are you redeeming travel time, listening to sermons, reading books that explain Scripture, etc.?

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# Sanctification

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## (4) God Appointed Means

### *Prayer*

“Now, the very nature of prayer identifies it as a means of grace, because the Father has ordained that His children receive the good gifts of His grace by means of their *asking* for them (Luke 11:9; Jas 4:2). And He has ordained it to be that way because He is glorified by demonstrating Himself to be the all-sufficient fountain who meets each of our need.”

Michael Riccardi, *Sanctification*, 22–3.

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# Sanctification

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## (4) God Appointed Means

*Prayer*

**Heb 4:16** Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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# Sanctification

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## (4) God Appointed Means

### *Prayer*

**Phil 4:6** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **7** And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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# Sanctification

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## (4) God Appointed Means

*Prayer*

**1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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# Sanctification

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## (4) God Appointed Means

*Prayer*

**Ps 119:37** Turn away my eyes from looking at vanity,  
And revive me in Your ways.

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# Sanctification

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## (4) God Appointed Means

### *Prayer*

- ❖ The very nature of prayer causes us to look away from ourselves and makes us dependent on God.
- ❖ How are you doing in prayer?

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# Sanctification

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## (4) God Appointed Means

### *Fellowship in a Local Church*

“It is in the fellowship of Christ’s church that we (a) expose ourselves to the regular, skillful preaching of the Word of God; that we (b) magnify the name of the Lord in corporate worship in a unique way as the gathered assembly; that we (c) minister to one another and build one another up as we use the gifts He has given us; that we (d) lovingly confront one another and help each other deal with sin, ”

Michael Riccardi, *Sanctification*, 25.



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# Sanctification

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## (4) God Appointed Means

### *Fellowship in a Local Church*

“and that we (e) partake in the ordinances of baptism and communion, which act as visible pictures of the Gospel, pressing the truths of Scripture afresh upon our consciences and thus sanctifying us by the Word of Truth. Dear reader, if you would seek to grow in holiness, do not forsake the assembling of yourselves together with the body of Christ.”

Michael Riccardi, *Sanctification*, 25.

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# Sanctification

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## (4) God Appointed Means

### *Providence*

“Scripture is also clear that all providential workings of God serve as a means of our growth in holiness. . . . “God causes *all* things to work together for good to those who love [Him]” (Rom 8:28). That means that God providentially ordains everything we go through in our lives to work for our good. And Paul defines that ‘good’ in the very next verse when he says, For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become *conformed to the image of His Son*” (Rom 8:29). *Every* experience we have is a minister of God’s providence that is designed to make us more like Christ.”

Michael Riccardi, *Sanctification*, 25–6.

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# Sanctification

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## (4) God Appointed Means

### *Providence*

“And that is especially the case with trials, which, when handled biblically, produce perseverance, character, and hope (Rom 5:3–5), proven faith (1 Pet 1:3–7), and endurance (Jas 1:2–4). In providential affliction the people of God are spurred on to greater holiness (Ps 119:71; Heb 12:10). Paul speaks about the believer’s sharing in the suffering of Christ as a means of becoming like Him (Rom 8:17; Phil 3:10–11), as well as giving us the occasion to be comforted by the Father and thus comfort others (2 Cor 1:4–6).”

Michael Riccardi, *Sanctification*, 26.

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# Sanctification

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## (4) God Appointed Means

### *Providence*

- ❖ Are you going through good times or bad times right now?
- ❖ Are you using them to examine your own heart?
- ❖ Are you turning from sin, being conformed to Christ, and growing in endurance, character, and hope?

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# Sanctification

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## (4) God Appointed Means

### *Obedience*

“External acts of obedience are to be properly regarded as the result of the inward sanctification of the soul. It is error to simply equate holiness with the performance of external duties as if the two were strictly synonymous. However, it cannot be overlooked that Scripture also presents obedience as a means of further progress in holiness.”

Michael Riccardi, *Sanctification*, 26–7.

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# Sanctification

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## (4) God Appointed Means

### *Obedience*

- ❖ In John 15:1–8 Jesus teaches that we will be fruitful as we abide in him.
- ❖ In John 15:10 Jesus teaches that obedience itself keeps us abiding in his love.
- ❖ In John 14:15 Jesus teaches that love empowers obedience.
- ❖ Love=obedience=obedience=Love.

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# Sanctification

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## (4) God Appointed Means

### *Obedience*

**John 15:1** “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. **2** “Every branch in Me . . . that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. **3** “You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. **4** “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you abide in Me. **5** “I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. . . . **7** “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **8** “My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and *so* prove to be My disciples.

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# Sanctification

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## (4) God Appointed Means

*Obedience*

**John 15:10** “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.



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# Sanctification

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## (4) God Appointed Means

*Obedience*

**John 14:15** “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”

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# Sanctification

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## (4) God Appointed Means

### *Obedience*

“It is a glorious cycle of the grace of God: love produces obedience, obedience produces more love, and love produces more obedience.”

Michael Riccardi, *Sanctification*, 27.

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# Sanctification

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## (4) God Appointed Means

“Sanctifying grace flows through all these channels, and it is our responsibility to put ourselves in the way of their blessings. We cannot perform the divine operation upon our souls that would make us more holy. But we *can* pursue that holiness—indeed, we *must* pursue that holiness—by availing ourselves of these means by which the Spirit of God performs this divine operation.”

Michael Riccardi, *Sanctification*, 27.

