

“Sanctification is so involved in justification that justification can never be real unless it is followed by sanctification.” – B.B. Warfield

Shorter Catechism Q. 35: What is sanctification?

A. Sanctification is the work of God’s free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.

Sanctification is all about becoming holy

1. Sanctification starts with a New Heart (The Hospital)

- We have a diseased heart, but God promises a new one – Ezek 36:26-27
- This new heart sets us apart from those dying in sin
- It is a once for all, completed action
- Sometimes the Bible means this when it refers to sanctification – 1 Cor 6:11
- There has been a deep down change which will work out over time

2. Sanctification ends with Christ-likeness

- The finished product is being made like Jesus – Rom 8:29-30
- Made right in every aspect of our being – total transformation
- The job isn’t finished until we are in Heaven – Heb 12:23
- This is both challenging and comforting, but never an excuse for sin

3. Sanctification is a gradual process covering every area of our lives (The School)

- We have to relearn everything - 1 Thess 5:23
- 2 aspects:
 - Putting off wrong habits/attitudes/emotions/words
 - “Put to death the misdeeds of the body” – Rom 8:13
 - Putting on Christ-like habits/attitudes/emotions/words
 - “Put on the new self, made new in the attitude of the mind” – Eph 4:24
- There are no shortcuts, it takes effort – “Strive for holiness” – Heb 12:14
- Don’t be discouraged at areas still needing work

4. Sanctification is both our work and God’s

- “Work out your salvation... for God is at work in you” – Phil 2:12-13
- The power that transformed Saul into Paul is at work in you
- How do we co-operate?

- Realise your helplessness. Identify your sin. Identify how you should behave. Seek his help.
- This is a great encouragement – no sin is unconquerable

5. Sanctification is aided by God given instruments

- God has different ways to shape and teach us:
 - a) **Your Textbook**
 - “Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth” – Jn 17:17
 - Get into God’s word and put everything you learn into practice
 - Take the truths and hammer them into your mind
 - b) **Your Fellow students**
 - They can bring out the best in us, spurring us on – Heb 10:24-25
 - They can bring out the worst in us – we must use that to weed our own hearts
 - c) **Your Work Experience**
 - Life in the real world and our changing circumstances give opportunity to either grow in Christ-likeness or to reinforce wrong habits and attitudes.
 - Often our reactions to real life shows us where we still need to grow.

Conclusion

- The Graduation Hall – All who put on Christ graduate together, clothed in perfect robes of Christ’s righteousness
- “saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit... that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.” – 2 Thess 2:13-17