

1Pet 1.1-2, Part 3—We Are Elected Unto Sanctification by the Spirit

What is sanctification?

- I. To be sanctified involves a renewal of the whole man after the image of God until it's perfected in glory, Gal 4.19; 1Cor 15.49
 - A. The Father elected a people for Himself and purposed for them to pass through the Son's cleansing and the Spirit's renewal. Peter is showing us that no sinner comes into the enjoyment of eternal life without this three step redeeming work of God on his soul.
 1. Because our fall into sin corrupted the whole man, so sanctification is the renovation of the whole man, 1Th 5.23-24
 2. Because the seat of our fallenness is in the heart, so the Spirit sets up shop in the heart (Pr 4.23), so that the whole life can be made anew, Ezk 36.26-27; 2Cor 3.3; Eph 6.6; 1Tim 1.5
 - B. This renewal of the whole man is carried on according to the pattern of Jesus, who was the living and breathing transcription of the Law of God, Rom 8.29; 1Jn 3.2-3; Jn 8.29
- II. Wherein do justification and sanctification differ?
 - A. Justification by the Son is a legal act that takes place in an instant, outside of a sinner, at the Bar of God, Rom 5.1-2. Sanctification by the Spirit is a re-creative act that takes place, as a lengthy process, in the inner life of a man, 1Th 5.23-24
 - B. In justification, the righteousness of Christ is imputed to a man, instantly making him righteous before God. In sanctification, the holiness of Christ is infused into a man, progressively imprinting the image of Christ onto him, Rom 8.29
 - C. Justification is an act of God about the status of your person, making you a child of God. Sanctification is a work of God about your nature as a child of God, bringing you into conformity with the status given to you in your justification, Phil 2.13
 - D. Justification is the act of God as a Judge absolving you from the sentence of death you deserve and giving you life instead. Sanctification is the work of God as a Physician, curing you of a mortal disease, Ezk 36.26-27
 - E. Justification is a righteousness outside of you, in Christ—even His own righteousness. Sanctification is a holiness within you, even His own holiness, implanted and engraved on your soul and life.
 - F. Your justification is unchangeable, whereas your sanctification can and does change. Thankfully, God's love for you and acceptance of you is based on the former, Eph 1.7
 - G. Justification is entirely an act of God about you and for you, to which you cannot contribute. Sanctification is a work of God in you and with you, to which you must contribute, Phil 2.12-13

- H. The justification of every child of God is the same, but the sanctification of every child of God can differ greatly, 1Cor 3.1-3

Sanctification is a work of the Spirit of God

- I. The Holy Spirit is the author of our sanctification, Phil 2.13; Ezk 36.26-27
 - A. It's the foolishness and pride of man that we try so hard to work our own holiness. We need to remember that the principle of holiness is our spiritual union with Christ and that the power of holiness is the Holy Spirit of Christ indwelling us, 1Th 5.23-24.
 - B. Our sanctification is done in us and even through our own industry, but it's all done by the Holy Spirit so that it does not fail and so that He gets all the glory, Ex 31.13

Our Sanctification is Unto Obedience

- I. This sanctification worked by the Spirit of God is unto obedience.
 - A. There's no sanctification of the Spirit that doesn't have this as its end goal and aim. This isn't legalism. It's biblical Christianity, Heb 12.14; Eph 2.10; Jn 14.15, 21-24
 - B. The visible testimony and effect of the Spirit's work in a soul is obedience in the life, Jn 13.35

Reflections for Application

- I. Let no man think that the preaching of God's sovereignty in salvation leads honest Christians to a licentious life.
 - A. The Father's elect are chosen to be filled with His Holy Spirit and enabled to live a life of obedience.
- II. Don't be discouraged if you see that you fall short of the holiness to which the Lord calls you and for which you long. Bless God for any little measure of holiness you see in yourself because it's a spring that will never stop running and growing until you're perfected in glory.
- III. See that you examine yourself by this description of God's people. Do you have any evidence that you've been elected by the Father, called by His grace to Jesus, and set apart unto holiness in the Spirit?
- IV. See that you bless God that He took so many pains to save you. Casting us into hell would've been so easy, since we deserved it. But instead, He goes to all this work for us! What can we say to this but, sing His praise and bless His holy name!