

# **Sanctification: Vivification & Mortification**

**Ephesians 1: 3-10**

**Colossians 3: 1-11**

# How to “kill” sin

- Intentional weakening of sin when we turn to God in faith and turn away from sin
- Gradual progress
- A daily ongoing battle

# 2 sides of the coin

Repentance: we turn from sin

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Faith: we recognize that God is bigger and better  
than anything sin offers

# We talk to ourselves all the time

- We sin when we think or believe a lie instead of trusting God
- Change takes place as, in response to God's goodness and grace, we turn to him in faith
- “Faith is trusting God to do what he has promised because we are convinced by his provisions that God is willing and able to keep his word.”

- Scott Hafemann

# 202-word description of what God has done for us “in Christ” – Eph. 1: 3-14

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace 8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, 9 he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, 10 to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. (Eph. 1: 3-10)

# What God has done for us

## “through Christ” – Eph. 1: 3-14

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# What God has done for us

## “in Christ” – Eph. 1: 3-14

11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, 12 in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. 13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory. (Eph. 1: 11-14)

# What God has done for us “in Christ” – Eph. 1: 3-14

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.



# What God has done for us “in Christ” – Eph. 1: 3-14

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

## **Eph. 1: 3-14 (cont'd)**

In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

# Progressive Sanctification

Justification

Sanctification

Glorification

instantaneous

life-long process

instantaneous

God does this    We cooperate with God    God does this

Past

Present

Future

**God  
Judges**

**God Forgives  
& Justifies**

**GOD**  
the Holy & Righteous  
**JUDGE**

**2 Cor. 5:21**

**Eph. 1:7  
Heb. 10:17**

**The Saviour  
The Substitute  
The Sacrifice**



**The believing  
SINNER**



**becomes  
a SAINT!**

**Justification**  
**Adoption**

Sanctification

Glorification

instantaneous

life-long process

instantaneous

God does this    We cooperate with God    God does this

Past

Present

Future

# So, the crucial question is ...

- Are you “in Christ”?
- Have you been justified through Christ’s death on the cross
- Have you been adopted through Christ?

# Sanctification requires spiritual resources from our “bank account”

And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ...

(1 Cor. 1: 30, ESV)

# Progressive Sanctification

Justification

Sanctification

Glorification

Adoption

instantaneous

life-long process

instantaneous

God does this    We cooperate with God    God does this

**We withdraw resources from our bank account**

**Grace-driven effort**

Past

Present

Future



# Sanctification requires grace-driven effort

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. (Col. 3: 1-4)

5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. (Col. 3: 5-6)

7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. 8 But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. (Col. 3: 7-10)

# Two sides of sanctification

Positive side  
(additive)

**Vivification**

Negative side  
(subtractive)

**Mortification**

*Institutes of the Christian Religion*, by John Calvin (published 1536)

# What is vivification?

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. (Col. 3: 1-2)

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Rom. 12: 2-3)

# Vivification in action ...

set your hearts on things above

set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. (Col. 3: 1-2)

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. (Rom. 12: 2)

We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. (2 Cor. 10: 5 )

# Vivification and mortification take place at the same time

## Vivification

renewing our minds

taking our thoughts  
captive to Christ

growing in understanding  
of who God is

## Mortification

putting to death immorality

putting to death impurity

lust, evil desires, greed

anger, rage, malice

slander, filthy language

# Morally “neutral” things can pull us away from the Lord

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.

(Hebrews 12: 1-2, NLT)



# Q's to ask re morally “neutral” things

- Can I thank God for this particular thing/activity?
- Will this bring glory and honor to my Lord Jesus?
- Will it cause others to stumble (trip up)?
- Will it appear evil?
- Am I making provision (giving allowances) to my “flesh”?
- Will it violate my conscience?

# What have we learned about sanctification ?

- How are we going to apply what we have learned in our lives this week?