

Outline of the Doctrine of Sanctification

(Romans 6:1 through 8:39)

Sanctification is the doctrine of spiritual growth measured by change towards conformity to the image of Christ. Being conformed is not defined by outward conformity, but by inward transformation supernaturally enabled by the indwelling Spirit of God (by grace) to obey the will of God that is revealed through the Word of God. Spiritual growth is measured on three fronts:

1. Head (intellectual knowledge)
2. Heart (emotional, passionate commitment to obedience “from the heart”)
3. Feet (becoming doers of the Word and not hearers only)

Sanctification involves:

I. Answering the question, “Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound” (6:1-23)? Key verse is 6:3.

A. The responsibilities of the believer’s new position in Christ regarding sin (6:1-23).

B. Three key words:

1. Know
2. Reckon
3. Yield

II. Serving in the “newness of the spirit” and the problem of the “flesh” (7:1-25). Key verse is 7:6.

III. The enabling grace of God in the indwelling Holy Spirit fulfilling “the righteousness of the Law . . . in us” (Romans 8:1-39). Key verse is 8:2.