FUNDAMENTALS

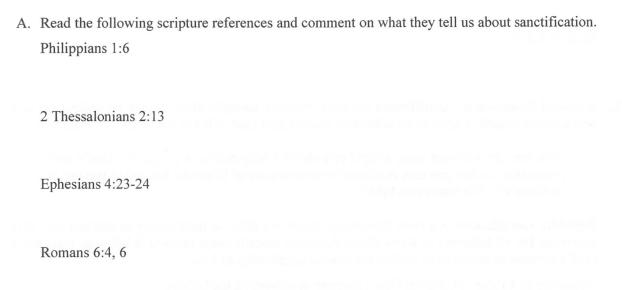
"WHAT IS SANCTIFICATION?"

"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."

(Westminster Shorter Catechism #35)

I. The Vital Truth of Sanctification

Understanding sanctification puts a believer in a place in which he can appreciate what it means to live out his faith. Sanctification is a separate aspect of salvation or redemption from justification. While there is more than one dimension to God's work of sanctification, it is especially important to be able to distinguish sanctification from justification. Justification is a once-and-for-all time event, while sanctification is an ongoing process.



B. The process of sanctification is synergistic, which means that it entails a cooperative effort between the believer and God. While it is certainly true that all of salvation, including sanctification, is a sovereign work of God's grace, He has sovereignly appointed particular means of grace for the believer. The believer's utilization of the various means of grace is the manner by which God accomplishes the work of sanctification. Failing to avail oneself of the means God provides to accomplish sanctification constitutes nothing less than disobedience, thus is itself a hindrance to maturity and growth in the faith.

Read the following Scripture references and identify the means of grace described.

Romans 10:17

Hebrews 10:24-25

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

	Philippians 4:6-7				
	Ephesians 5:21				
	Matthew 16:15-19				
	Ephesians 5:18-20				
	Malachi 3:8-12				
C.	A second dimension of sanctification is called <i>definitive sanctification</i> . It may be understood as a consecration or setting apart of an individual for and unto God. This is described in 1 Peter 2:9:				
		on race, a royal priesthood a holy nation, but may proclaim the excellencies of Him vervelous light."			
	important for all believers	a once-for-all-time event — similar to <i>ju</i> to know about definitive sanctification s as well as our special relationship to Him	because it helps us understand		
1	According to 1 Peter 2:9, v	what is God's <i>purpose</i> in redeeming the be	liever?		
	Read Matthew 5:14-16 and	discuss how it corresponds to the point a	bove.		
	Read Romans 8:1 and desc	ribe what it says about the position of the	believer.		
	Read Galatians 2:20 and de	escribe how a believer is to live.			

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1. Does the doctrine of sanctification maintain that believers always progress in terms of righteousness and maturity?

- 2. What ought we expect to occur in our lives when we neglect the means of grace?
- 3. What are some common errors believers (churches) embrace when they fail to separate and distinguish *justification* from *sanctification*?

4. How does God respond to His child when he refuses to use the various means of grace?