

Scripture: Galatians 2:11-3:5

Lord's Day 32.86-87

Singing: 308:1-3 – 427:6-8 – 232:1-3 – 42:1, 4

The Spiritual Pitfalls Hindering the Life of Holiness (final)

I. Misunderstanding of relationship of sanctification to justification

II. Misunderstanding of riches of the Biblical teaching on sanctification

III. Misunderstanding sanctification as our accomplishment instead of our fruit bearing thru faith in Christ

A. When we come to Jesus in repentance/faith, we receive a new heart!

1. Biblical support: John 7:37-38; Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:2

a. we all need new heart/spirit: John 3:8

b. how do I get a new heart as Ezekiel 18:30-32 exhorts?

B. Sanctification is fruit of being in Christ

1. Biblical support: John 15:1-8; Eph. 2:10; 1 Cor. 1:30-31

a. what to do when we feel spiritually barren?

b. consider Galatians 3:5 back to 2:20!

IV. Misunderstanding sanctification as a passive waiting for God to do it all

A. Salvation is *monergistic* (working alone) and *synergistic* (working together)

1. God saves spiritually regenerates dead sinners without our cooperation
(Eph. 2:4; John 6:44; John 3:8)

2. God also sanctifies sinners: *sanctification is God's gracious gift* (1 Cor. 1:30)

a. Biblical support: 1 Cor. 1:24; Phil. 1:6; Phil. 2:13; 1 Thess. 5:23

B. Yet in sanctification, believers also become active in sanctifying themselves

1. Canons ¾, art 12 (after teaching regeneration as monergistic work of God)
Whereupon the will thus renewed is not only actuated and influenced by God, but in consequence of this influences, becomes itself active.

a. Biblically this is pictured in *conquest of Promised Land by Israel*

- God's promise and calling in Deut. 7:2-4 and Deut. 9:3

2. Brakel's Biblically balanced statement on sanctification

- a. *As little as man can contribute to his regeneration, faith and justification, so little can he contribute to his sanctification. Yet the believer is not passive. Believers hate sin, love God, and are obedient, and do good works. However, they do this neither on their own nor independently from God; rather, the Holy Spirit, having infused life in them at regeneration, maintains that life by His continual influence, stirs it up, activates it, and causes it to function in harmony with its spiritual nature.*

3. Holy Spirit carries out His work through the Biblical admonitions

Conclusion: Sanctification is the saint's greatest hunger!

A. We are called to *pursue the gift*.

B. As we look and lean on Christ, we can do all things (Phil. 4:13)

1. Though God doesn't need us, through His Spirit He makes us willing partners in His Work of sanctification: Hebrews 13:20-21

**Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
That great shepherd of the sheep,
through the blood of the everlasting covenant,
make you perfect in every good work to do His will,
working in you that which is wellpleasing in His sight,
through Jesus Christ;
to whom be glory for ever and ever.
Amen.**