

# God's Gracious Sanctification through Grace-Empowered Faith and Works to Become More Like Christ

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## I. Positional and Progressive Sanctification

- A. Positional Sanctification: the present position or status of believers, from the moment of their conversion, of being definitively and unalterably separated unto God, in Christ. Thus, they are called "saints" or holy ones indicating their irreversible new identity as those who are separated from darkness to light, from the dominion of Satan to the kingdom of God's beloved Son – Acts 26:18; 1 Cor 1:2; 6:11; Col 1:13-14; Heb 10:10 (cf. Rom 6:1-11; Eph 1-3)
- B. Progressive Sanctification: the continuous operation of the HS, enjoining the believer's willful participation, to strengthen our newly imparted disposition toward holiness, freeing us increasingly from the power of sin and renewing us increasingly into the image of Christ – Rom 6:19; Col 1:10-14; 2 Cor 3:18; 1 Thess 4:3; 5:23; 2 Tm 2:21 (cf. Rom 6:12-23; Eph 4-6)

## II. Divine Agency in Sanctification

- A. "God" or specifically the Father – Rom 8:29-30; Eph 1:4; Phil 1:6; 1 Thess 5:23-24; Jude 24-25  
Phil 1:6 – For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.
- B. Christ – John 15:4-5; Eph 5:25-27; Titus 2:13-14; Heb 10:11-14; 1 Pet 2:24  
Eph 5:25-27 – <sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, <sup>26</sup>so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <sup>27</sup>that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.
- C. Holy Spirit – Rom 7:6; 8:3-17; 2 Cor 3:18; Gal 5:16-26; 1 Thess 4:8; 2 Thess 2:13  
2 Cor 3:18 – But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

## III. Human Agency in Sanctification

- A. Imperatives to Individual Believers – Rom 6:11, 13; 12:1-2; Eph 4:1ff, 17-24; Col 3:9-10; 1 Pet 1:16  
Rom 6:11-13 – <sup>11</sup>Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. <sup>12</sup>Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, <sup>13</sup>and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.
- B. Role of Gifted Leaders – Eph 4:11-16; Gal 4:19; Heb 13:17  
Heb 13:17 – Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.
- C. Believers' Gifts in the Body of Christ – 1 Cor 12:7; 14:12 (w/in context of 1 Cor 12-14); Heb 10:24-25  
1 Cor 12:7 – But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

## IV. Both Divine and Human Agencies Together (John Murray, "we work because God works") – 1 Cor 15:10; Eph 2:10; Phil 2:12-13; Col 1:29; Heb 12:1-3; 2 Pet 1:3-11

- Phil 2:12-13 – <sup>12</sup>So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup>for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.