
LESSON 3: PROGRESSIVELY SANCTIFIED

Introductory Overview

While a large portion of this Reformed Foundations series focuses on doctrinal distinctives that speak to the character & nature of God & saving faith in Christ, this must not be pursued outside of or separately from heart reform. A Christian who is Reformed in doctrine but not in personal holiness is not truly Reformed. Instead, they come dangerously close to Jesus' rebuke of the Pharisees; ***This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far away from me (Matthew 15:8)***. This is not a lesson using spiritual manipulation to make us all moral Christians. Rather, it will highlight the natural means God provides His people to grow in personal holiness & love for God & His people. This lesson will be instructional in introducing believers to the various instruments God uses to strengthen & mature believers in Christ.

We have seen that Athanasius, a reformer/apologist of the early Church, was known for both his zeal for Christ's deity & his personal piety & devotion to Christ's people. Claudius of Turin took forever to publish a commentary on Galatians because of his labors in combating evil & working toward the holiness of his people. The personal piety of these men was directly related to their zeal for the truth of Christ & His Gospel. We must strive for doctrinal clarity in our lives & in the Church, but this is necessarily tied to the reform God does in our hearts.

Question #1: How do you think Acts 2:42, 46-47 will contribute to this lesson's direction in progressive sanctification? ***And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. And daily devoting themselves with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number daily those who were being saved.***

Question #2: The passage above emphasizes that the Church continually devoted themselves to these things. Is this an idealized understanding of pursuing the things of God? Why do we find ourselves struggling with these things?

Sanctification is the process or state of holiness; being made set apart for sacred use. While we are made holy in Christ, His righteousness being imputed to us, God still works in us by His Spirit in conforming us into His image throughout our lives. While we have not yet been glorified (the sin in us being completely eradicated), we have been given new hearts & desires to love God as He has called us to, & to love others as we have never loved them before. Our hearts will wane at times, but God's fire within us will never go out. And He has placed in our lives many instruments that will stoke that fire of holiness within us. What we will cover in this lesson are some of these wonderful means.

I. The Holy Spirit's Corporate Means of Sanctification**A. The Preaching of the Word**

1. The Biblical Command: **2 Timothy 4:1-4**
2. The Work of God's Word: **John 17:17**
3. The Spiritual Benefits: **2 Timothy 3:14-17**

Question #3: What does being sanctified by the preaching of the Word look like?

B. The Ordinances: Baptism & The Lord's Supper

1. What Christ Has Done & Is Doing

a. UNION WITH CHRIST

i. **Baptism: Galatians 3:27**

ii. **Lord's Supper: 1 Corinthians 10:16-17**

b. FORGIVENESS OF SINS

i. **Baptism: Acts 2:38**

ii. **Lord's Supper: Matthew 26:28**

c. COVENANT ENTRANCE

i. **Baptism: Acts 2:38-41**

ii. **Lord's Supper: 1 Corinthians 11:25**

d. SANCTIFICATION

i. **Baptism: Romans 6:3-4**

ii. **Lord's Supper: 1 Corinthians 11:28-32**

Question #4: What effect have baptism or the Lord's Table had on you & your walk?

C. Worship & Fellowship

1. **The Gathered Church: Hebrews 10:24-25**

2. **Song: Ephesians 5:18-19**

3. **Discipleship: 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15**

4. **Prayer: 1 Timothy 2:8**

5. **Church Discipline: Hebrews 13:17; Matthew 18:15-18**

6. **Christian Love: Romans 12:9-13**

Question #5: What part of corporate worship or fellowship do you look forward to?

II. The Holy Spirit's Personal Means of Sanctification

A. Prayer

1. **Biblical Command: Matthew 6:6**

2. **Praise & Adoration: Matthew 6:9**

3. **Submission & Obedience: Matthew 6:10**

4. **Confession & Repentance of Sin: Matthew 6:12-13**

5. **Christian Love Toward Man: Ephesians 6:18**

Question #6: How does praying for others work toward your personal holiness?

B. The Reading of the Word of God

1. **Loving God Rightly: Psalm 119:7**

2. **That We May Not Sin: Psalm 119:9-11**

3. **Receiving the Joy of the Lord: Psalm 119:14-16**

4. **Comfort in Affliction: Psalm 119:50-52**

Question #7: What other ways has the Word of God strengthened your walk?

C. Household Worship

1. **The Husband Leading the Wife: Ephesians 5:25-27**

2. **The Father Leading the Children: Ephesians 6:4; Deuteronomy 6:6-9**

3. **The Mother Leading the Children: 2 Timothy 1:5, 3:15**

Question #8: Do you practice family worship? How can believers in different seasons of life (married, single, widowed, or living alone) cultivate regular worship within their homes?