

Bible Study

Topic: The Bible in the Wesleyan Heritage

Lesson #8: Vital Bible Doctrines, Part Six

“The Doctrine of Sanctification” Key Verse: 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4

Proposition: Sanctification is that work of God’s grace by which we are renewed after the image of God, set apart for His service, and enabled to die to sin and live unto righteousness.

1. The nature of Sanctification (What is it?)

- a. It is the work of God’s grace which imparts in the Christian the desire and the ability to do His will. (Philippians 2:13)
- b. It is the process of Christian character development in which the believer is being renewed after the image of Christ. (Colossians 3:10)
- c. It is the process of life transformation whereby the Christian is dying unto sin and living unto righteousness (Romans 6:10-13)
- d. It is a process of growing in usefulness to the kingdom in which the Christian is set apart unto God (2 Timothy 2:19-21)
- e. It is a process that involves social as well as personal holiness (1 Thessalonians 3:12-13)

2. The Importance of Sanctification (Why is it necessary?)

- a. It is God’s will for the Christian (1 Thessalonians 4:3-4)
- b. It is God’s purpose in redeeming us (Titus 2:11-14)
- c. It is God’s command to His people (1 Peter 1:15-16)
- d. It is God’s way of being glorified (Matthew 5:16; John 15:8)
- e. It is God’s requirement for seeing him (Matthew 5:8; Hebrews 12:14)

3. The Means of Sanctification (How is it achieved?)

- a. The Human Side: Consecration (Roman 12:1-2)
 - i. Fleeing evil and following righteousness (1 Timothy 6:11)
 - ii. Taking off the old man and putting on the new man (Ephesians 4:22, 23)
 - iii. Denying ungodliness and living righteously (Titus 2:12)
 - iv. Attending the means of grace (Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 10:25)
 - v. Working out our own salvation (Philippians 2:12b)
- b. The Divine Side: Sanctification (1 Thessalonians 5:23)
 - i. The Blood of Christ, the Source (Hebrews 10:10, 13:12)
 - ii. The Word of Christ, the Instrument (John 17:17)
 - iii. The Spirit of Christ, the Agent (1 Peter 1:2)