

Xenos Christian Fellowship
Christian Growth
Week 1 – Overview of Sanctification and Pneumatology, Part 1

Introduction

The goal of this course

Sanctification: A gradual process of spiritual growth in the life of a Christian that results in us becoming more like Christ.

(1 Chronicles 23:13) “Aaron was set apart (sanctified), he and his descendants forever, to consecrate the most holy things, to offer sacrifices before the LORD, to minister before him and to pronounce blessings in his name forever.”

(2 Tim. 2:20-21) “Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor. 21 Therefore, if a man cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.”

Why do we think it is worth spending 9 weeks on sanctification?

- This is the

- It is a very complicated subject with

- Because of the above two,

- Because we cannot effectively

3 Phases of Salvation

"Salvation" means rescue or deliverance.

- Salvation has a range of meaning.
 - A past event: Being saved from the _____ of sin when God forgave us.
 - A present process: Being saved from the _____ of sin as we mature spiritually.
 - A future hope: Being saved from the _____ of sin when we are with God in heaven.

- The three “phases” of salvation are summarized in Phil. 1:6.

(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.

Justification	Sanctification	Glorification
(Gal 2:16) Nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we may be justified by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified.	(Rom 6:22) But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.	(Phil 3:21) Who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.
legal righteousness imputed; deliverance from sin's Penalty	personal righteousness imparted; deliverance from sin's Power	moral perfection & resurrected bodies; deliverance from sin's Presence
establishes Position	transforms Condition	matches Condition with Position
one act of faith	many acts of faith	no act of faith
once-for-all-time	progressive, dynamic, never-ending in this life ("spiritual growth")	once-for-all-time

Note: The word “sanctification” also has a range of meaning. It does not always refer to spiritual growth. Sometimes, the author of Hebrews uses *sanctification* to refer to *justification* (see Hebrews 10:10,14; 12:14). Paul uses the noun form of sanctification (*saints*) to refer to *people* (see 1 Cor. 1:2). Notice that saints are not an elite class of super-mature Christians, but simply people who have been justified

How can readers determine the exact meaning of a biblical word?

What is the goal of Spiritual Maturity?

The ultimate goal of spiritual maturity is to glorify God.

(Philippians 1:9) “And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; 11 having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, *to the glory and praise of God.*”

Three Aspects of Spiritual Maturity¹

¹ See John's emphasis in 1 John on doctrinal fidelity (2:24; 4:1-3;14,15), moral obedience (1:5-2:6) and loving others (2:7-11; 4:7-21). John purposefully defines spirituality in these terms in order to combat a Gnostic emphasis on subjective experience. Paul's letters to Timothy and Titus likewise urge them to emphasize doctrinal understanding (1 Tim. 1:3,4; 3:2,9; 4:6,13,15; 6:3,20; 2 Tim. 1:13,14; 2:8,15,24; 3:14-4:4; Titus 1:9,13,14; 2:1,2,7), moral character (1 Tim. 2:2; 3:2-12;

(John 15:7-14)** "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you. ⁽⁸⁾"By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. ⁽⁹⁾"Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. ⁽¹⁰⁾"If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love. ⁽¹¹⁾"These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full. ⁽¹²⁾"This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I do you. ⁽¹³⁾"Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. ⁽¹⁴⁾"You are My friends, if you do what I command you.

1. Loving Others

(John 15:12) "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I loved you."

Definition:

We can think of practicing biblical love along two axes:

HOW we love:

- *Sacrificial* rather than
- *Disciplining* rather than
- *Forgiving* rather than
- *Emotional* rather than

WHOM we love:

- (1 Thes 3:12)
- (1 Thes. 3:12; Matt. 5:46; Luke 10:25-37; Matt. 28:19)
-

What happens to those who neglect this area?

-
-

4:12; 6:11; 2 Tim. 2:3-6,19-22; 3:16; Titus 1:6-8; 2:2-10; 3:1,2), and love manifested practically through good deeds (1 Tim. 1:5; 2:10,15; 3:4,12; 4:12; 5:10; 6:11,18; 2 Tim. 1:7; 2:22,24,25; 3:10; Titus 2:2,4,14; 3:8,14). Jesus' primary concerns for the seven churches in Revelation 2 & 3 reveals the same three foci: pure doctrine (2:2,6,13-15,20,24; 3:8), moral purity (2:14,20-22), and love (2:4,5,19). References to these three emphases from the other epistles are too numerous to mention.

What happens to those who focus only on loving others?

-
-

How does God help us to develop in this area?

- He provides us with models to imitate.
- He gives us opportunities to serve others.
- He blesses us when we choose to love others.
- He gradually shows us our unique role/gifts.
- He exposes our weak areas.

2. Sound Doctrine

(John 15: 7) "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you.

Definition:

Why do we need sound doctrine?

(Isaiah 55:8,9) "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Neither are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

Be careful to avoid the FALSE dichotomy between "head knowledge" and "heart knowledge."

What happens to those who neglect this area?

-
-
-

(2 Peter 1:12) Therefore, I shall always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you.

What happens to those who focus only on this area?

(J. I. Packer) "You know the sort of person I mean—one who is always reading, always exploring questions of truth, poking half the time into esoteric aspects of typology, unfulfilled prophecy, the millennium, the symbolic chapters of Revelation, and the problems of Bible harmony. He or she is not much concerned about experience, not very active in obedience and service of others, and not distinguished for a radically changed life. But the head is always busy with theological questions, and is full to overflowing with doctrine. In an anti-intellectual age like ours, such love of truth, and such devotion to the task of determining it, are rare and precious; and as we saw earlier, interest in the truth about God is natural to all the born-again. But is that interest, in and of itself, a token of good spiritual health? . . . No, it is not!" (J. I. Packer, *Rediscovering Holiness*, p. 168.)

-
-
-

How does God help us to develop in this area?

- The Holy Spirit illuminates our mind.
- God will show us our need for growth by sending us people we don't know how to help because we don't know his word.

- He gives us opportunities to apply what we are learning.
- He provides us with teachers to help us make sense out of the Bible.

3. Transformed Character

(John 15:10) "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love.

Definition:

God wants to eliminate and replace.

What happens to those who neglect this area?

-
-
-

What happens to those who focus only on this area?

-
- You will also tend to set up a system of rules that aren't moral (biblical) and treat them as important as biblical imperatives. (Mark 7:6-8,13)
-

How does God help us to develop in this area?

- God personally prioritizes what he wants to work on (Ps. 139:23,24).
- God motivates us to turn away from destructive sinful attitudes.

- God provides positive and negative models of our needed character change

Are you able to take God's correction in moral areas?

(Ps. 32:8) "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you. Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you. Many are the woes of the wicked, but the Lord's unfailing love surrounds the man who trusts in him."

Sanctification Summary

(Eph 4:14,15) As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; (15) but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up *in all aspects* into Him, who is the head, even Christ . . .

Pneumatology, Part 1

Introduction

Pneumatology:

Two dangers to avoid: Neglect and overemphasis.

Identity of the Holy Spirit

1. The Holy Spirit is a person, not a force or a part of God.

- *He has the elements of personality:*

-

(1 Cor. 2:10,11) For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. (11) For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.

-

(Eph. 4:30) And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

-

(1 Cor. 12:11) But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

- *He is grouped with other known persons.*

(Matt. 28:19) "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, (Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; 1 Pet. 1:2; Acts 2:33,38; Gal. 4:6; 2 Cor. 1:21,22).

- *The use of the personal pronoun "he" (as opposed to "it") indicates personhood (Jn. 16:13,14).*

(John 16:13,14) "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. (14) He shall glorify Me; for He shall take of Mine, and shall disclose it to you."

2. The Holy Spirit is fully God.

- *He possesses divine attributes*

-

(1 Cor. 2:11,12) For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. (12) Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God.

-

(Ps. 139:7) Where can I go from Thy Spirit? Or where can I flee from Thy presence?

- *He is equated with God*

(2 Cor. 3:17) Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

(Acts 5:3,4) But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back some of the price of the land? 4) "While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men, but to God."

Contrasting the Holy Spirit's Work in Old and New Covenant

Generally speaking, the Holy Spirit is much more active among God's people in the New Covenant than he was in the Old Covenant.²

There are three major areas of contrast between Old Covenant and New Covenant work of the Holy Spirit:

1. The Holy Spirit was _____ rather than _____ God's people.

(Ezek. 36:27) And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

(John 14:17) . . . that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you. . . .

2. His involvement was _____, not _____.

(Joel 2:28) 'And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.

(1 Cor. 12:13) For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

(Rom. 8:9) However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

3. His involvement was _____, not _____.

(1 Sam. 16:14) Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD terrorized him.

(Ps. 51:11) Do not cast me away from Thy presence, And do not take Thy Holy Spirit from me.

(John 14:16) "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;

Summary:

²

Old Testament **New Testament** Pages in New American Standard Bible (NASB) 1334396 Number of references to Holy Spirit 78*2355.8% 59.3%* Many Old Testament passages mention the Spirit in reference to His work in the future in the New Covenant.

OLD COVENANT	NEW COVENANT
<i>with</i>	<i>in</i>
<i>selectively given</i>	<i>universally given</i>
<i>temporary</i>	<i>permanent</i>

Why the difference?

(John 7:37-39) Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. (38) He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.'" (39) But this He spoke of the Spirit, those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Conclusion

(2 Peter 1:3-11) "seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the *true knowledge* of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. 4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become *partakers of the divine nature*, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith *supply moral excellence*, and in your moral excellence, *knowledge*; 6 and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness 7 and in your godliness, *brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love*. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these qualities is blind or shortsighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins. 10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; 11 for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

Vs. 3, 4:

Vs. 5-7:

Vs. 8-11:

Memory Verses

Phil. 1:6* - speaks of three stages of salvation, and emphasizes God's faithfulness in each of these stages

Jn. 15:7-12** - speaks of all three aspects of spiritual maturity

Assignment

Read John chapters 14-16 and make 5 observations from your reading about who the Holy Spirit is or how He works in our lives today.

Week 1 Exam Review Guide

1. Be able to explain the key differences in the three phases of salvation (justification, sanctification & glorification).
2. Be able to define and explain the three major aspects of spiritual maturity (loving others, sound doctrine, transformed character).
3. Be able to explain the key differences in the activity of the Holy Spirit under the Old Covenant and under the New Covenant (with/in; temporary/permanent; selective/universal), and the main reason for these differences (Christ's payment for our sins).