

**Xenos Christian Fellowship  
 Christian Principles Unit 2  
 Dynamics of Spiritual Growth  
 Week 1: Overview of Sanctification**

**Introduction**

**3 Phases of Salvation**

**(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
<b>(Gal 2:16)</b> 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.	<b>(Rom 6:22)</b> But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.	<b>(Phil 3:21)</b> 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.

**Why do we spend fifteen weeks on this issue?**

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## What does spiritual maturity look like?

Growing in intimacy with Christ

John 17:3; Phil.3:8,10; 1 Jn. 2:13,14

Becoming like Christ ("Growing up in all aspects to him")

**(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 . . .

**(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 have loved 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) Doctrinal

**(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.

*A growing understanding of God's perspective of the world, man, how to relate to him, etc. as revealed in his word **and** to be able to find the major doctrines in the Bible.*

(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.

What Happens To Those Who Neglect This Area?

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### 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.)

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### How Does God Help Us Develop This Area?

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## 2) Biblical Love

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

*Definition of biblical love: A commitment to give of one's self in every area for the good of the loved one. (Phil. 2:3,4)*

We can think of practicing biblical love along two axes:

*How* we love.

- sacrificial
- disciplining
- forgiving
- emotional

*Whom* we love.

- Existing relationships (depth)
- Developing friendships with new people (breadth)

What Happens To Those Who Neglect This Area?

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What Happens To Those Who Focus Only On This Area?

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How Does God Help Us Develop This Area?

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### 3) Moral Transformation

**(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 of Moral transformation: This is the deep-seated change in our character, behavior, values and attitudes that God works to gradually effect.*

What Happens To Those Who Neglect This Area?

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2 Tim 2:20 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.

Psa.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."

What Happens To Those Who Focus Only On This Area?

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## How Does God Help Us Develop This Area?

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## Conclusion

2 Peter 1:3 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. 5 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. 8 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 short-sighted, 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.

## 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: doctrinal, love, moral.

## Assignment

Read Walking In Victory, chapter 6. Write one paragraph summarizing the chapter, and one paragraph on what was most helpful to you.

## Exam Review Guide: Week #1

Be able to explain the key differences in the three phases of salvation (justification, sanctification & glorification).

Be able to explain the three major aspects of spiritual maturity (doctrinal, moral, & biblical love).