

The Doctrine of Sanctification

Php 2.12 *Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

WSC 35 *Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.*

Sanctification is the *Work* of God's Free Grace

- A. Sanctification is grounded on Christ's work and in light of our union with Christ
 - i.e., In our union with Christ's death and resurrection (Rom 6.4-6; Gal 2.20; LC 69)
- B. Sanctification's power is from God's Spirit in us (Ezek 36.27; Eph 3.16, 20-21; 2Cor 1.8,9; Rom 8.13; Php 2.12,13; 2Tim 1.6,7)

Sanctification is *Renewal* in the Image of God

- A. Reformation (Renovation, Transformation) – Eph 4.23; Col 3.10; 2Cor 5.17; 1Pet 2.24
 - 1. Spirit increases/strengthens graces in the *whole* man (1Th 5.23 - *through and through*)
 - 2. Christians grow in grace & ever-perfected holiness (2Cor 3.18)
 - 3. God promises to complete (consummate) his work in us (Rom 6.14; 1Jn 4.4; Php 1.6)
- B. Renewal through “Mortification”
“Be killing sin, or it will be killing you.” – John Owen, *Mortification of Sin*
 - 1. The Spirit enables us to die to sin & put off the old (Rom 8.13; Col 3.5; 2Cor 7.1)
 - 2. The Usefulness of the Cross (Mt 16.24; Gal 2.20)
- C. Renewal through “Vivification”
 - 1. Spirit enables us to walk in righteousness & put on new (Rom 6.4; 13.12; 1Pet 2.24)
 - 2. Temptation & Battle: Spirit vs. flesh
Gal 5.17 - *“For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.”*
- D. Progression (“progressive sanctification”)
 - 1. God expects Fruit
Col 1.10 - *“...walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.”* (Jn 15.4,5)
 - 2. God expects *more* Fruit
2Pet 1.5 - *“make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue... knowledge⁶self-control... steadfastness... godliness... ⁷brotherly affection... love.”*

The Sanctification of the Heart

Why study the “heart”?

- “Heart” is the most used word, most misused word & most Appropriate Word

Definition

The heart is the governing center of a person. When used simply, it reflects the unity of our inner being, and when used comprehensively, it describes the complexity of our inner being—as composed of mind (what we know), desires (what we love), and will (what we choose)

Your Heart is...	Your Sin is...	Your Lord is a...
Mind <i>what you know</i>	“sin” <i>to fall short (of what you know)</i>	Prophet <i>teach & assure</i>
Desire <i>what you love</i>	“iniquity” <i>to twist, pervert</i>	Priest <i>redeem & renew</i>
Will <i>what you choose</i>	“transgression” <i>to rebel</i>	King <i>subdue & strengthen</i>

KNOWING

The *Mind* of Your Heart

The Mind of Your Heart: Knowing

- A. The Heart Thinks (Eph 1.17-18; Mt 15.19)
 - Ps 139.23 - “*Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!*”
 - 1. Thoughts, understanding, cognition (Gen 6.5; Heb 4.12; Mt 9.4)
 - 2. “Wisdom” & heart (Prov 2.10; 12.23; 15.14; 18.15; 22.17)
- B. The Heart *meditates & remembers* (Ps 19.14; Gen 17.17; Dt 6.6; Lk 2.19), *hears & believes* (Mt 13.11-15 [Isa 6.9,10]; Rom 10.9-11)
- C. The Heart & Mind are Friends (not contrasted, but coordinated in Scripture)

The Sin of Your Mind: Knowing Better

- A. “Sin”: *to fall short; to miss the mark* (Jdg 20.16; Ex 34.7; Rom 5.12; WSC 14)
 - WSC 14 (‘lack of conformity’); doing nothing; omission; “I forgot”
- B. Sin Within: The Secret Places (Matt 5.21-48)
- C. Impassioned Reason (Gen 6.5; Mt 15.18; Rom 1.21)

The *Prophet* of Your Mind: Knowing Better

- A. Christ works through Word & Spirit
 - 1. Recreated mind—*saving* knowledge (Rom 10.9; Heb 10.22; Jn 8.32)
 - 2. Renewed mind – *sanctifying* our knowledge (Rom 12.2; Eph 4.23)
 - 3. Reassured mind – *securing* our knowledge (we know—2Jn 1; Jn 8.32)
 - via Word’s Promises (1Jn 5.13; 2Tim 1.12) & via Spirit’s Assurance (Rom 8.16)
- B. Knowing Better... and Better – knowing *what* you know & *that* you know

LOVING

The *Desires* of Your Heart

The Desires of Your Heart: What You Love

Ps 73.25-26 - “*Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.*”

- A. What the heart wants, seeks, longs for, craves, feels, loves, “treasure”
 - Mt 6.21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*
 - Puritans: “*affections*”
- B. “Desire” as *Good* (Ps 19.10; Isa 27.2; Mt 13.17; Lk 22.15;) or *Bad* (Exod 20.17; Pr 6.25; Mt 5.28; Rom 6.12; Gal 5.24) or *Both* (Gal 5.16-17)

The Iniquity of Your Desires: Perverted Love

- A. “*Iniquity*” – to twist, pervert, contort
 - 1. Crooked desires (*cf. Prov 3.5-6*)
 - 2. Corrupt desires (Ps 14.3; Lev 18.25; polluted, unrighteous—1Jn 2.1)
- B. *Über*-Desires: Idolatry
 - 1. False-loves & false-gods; glory in shame; forgetting how to blush (Jer 6.15; 8.12)
 - 2. Uncontrolled desires: gluttony, addiction, etc.,
- C. Punishing Desires - “*bear one’s iniquity*” (Gen 4.13; Ezek 44.12; Rom 1.24)

The *Priest* of Your Desires: Pure Love

- A. Renewed Desires (corrected, consecrated - Ps 51.10; Isa 1.16; Heb 10.22; 1Jn 1.9)
- B. Undivided Desire (Mt 5.8; 6.24; Josh 24.14; Ps 86.11; Isa 1.25; 1Pet 1.22; Lk 10.41)
 - Our goal is not to extinguish all desire, but to inflame godly desires
- C. Undaunted Desire for God (Ezek 36.25-27; Eph 4.22-24)

CHOOSING

The *Will* of Your Heart

The *Will* of Your Heart: What You Choose

- A. What the heart chooses or refuses, determines, resolves, decides, or commits to (Josh 24.14; Ruth 1.18; 1Cor 7.37; 16.12; Jn 7.17)
- B. The Inseparable Heart & Will (Martin Luther, Jonathan Edwards)

The *Transgression* of Your Will: Rebel Choices

- A. *Transgression* = rebel, revolt, defy superior's rule (Ex 23.21; Isa 1.2; Jer 2.29; Hos 7.13)
- B. Strong-willed: Stubborn & Proud
 - 1. Stubborn (Jer 16.12; Dt 21.18; 31.27; Ps 46.12)
 - a. "Hard heart," "heart of stone," "uncircumcised heart" (Heb 3.8; Ezek 36.26)
 - b. It can not hear (Ex 4.21; 7.13,22 *et al.*; Jn 12.40). It will not submit (Rom 8.7)
 - 2. Proud: Heart is "lifted up" (Deut 17.20; Dan 5.20)
- C. Weak-willed: Submissive & Powerless
 - 1. Weak to temptation, enslaved to desires
 - 2. It melts, faints, afraid (Gen 42.28; Num 32.7; Josh 14.7,8); is not "set" (2Chr 12.14)

The *King* of Your Will: Obedient Choices

- A. Saying "Yes" to God (Titus 2.11,12)
 - 1. Repentance: "broken/contrite" heart (Ps 51.17)
 - 2. Slave to righteousness; set free as sons (Rom 6.18,22); Gal 5.1; 1Pet 2.16)
- B. Saying "No" to sin (rebellion, disobedience) & the world
 - Courage: "have," "take," "set," (Ac 27.25; Isa 35.4; Dt 10.15)