

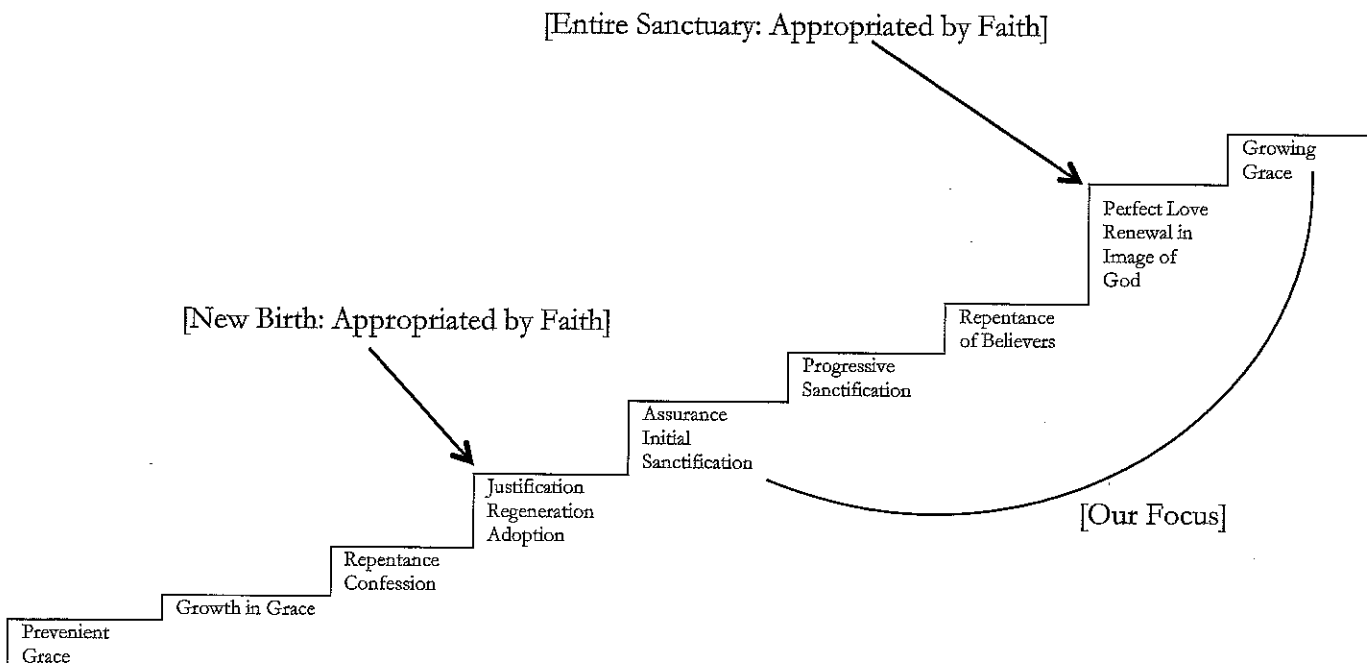
January 31, 2018
February 7, 2018

So Great a Salvation *Sanctification*

Introduction:

Wesleyan/Arminian Ordo Salutis

[Glorification at Death]



- Sanctification is a broad subject matter within salvation that varies among faith traditions based on timing, appropriation, and completeness.
- Related Terms: Holiness, imparted righteousness, Christian perfection, Baptism with Holy Spirit, initial/progressive/entire sanctification. Renewal image of God, perfect love, filled with the Holy Spirit.

QUESTION: What is your understanding of sanctification?

Contrast Justification and Sanctification

Justification	Sanctification
1. Legal Standing (relative change)	Internal Condition (real change)
2. Once for all time	Continual throughout life
3. Entirely God's work	We cooperate
4. Perfect in this life	Not perfect in this life
5. Same in all Christians	Greater in some than in others
6. Work <u>FOR</u> us (standing)	Work <u>IN</u> us (state)

I. Sanctification Biblically Defined

NOTE: Wesleyan Quadrilateral

A. "Sanctify"

1. To make holy
2. "Sanctus"= "holy" and "facere"=to make in Latin

B. Holiness—related word

1. "Qodesh" in Hebrew= "holy" or "separate"
2. "Qodesh" applied primarily to God—distinctively divine
3. God's "holiness" sets Him apart from finite humanity

Isaiah 6:3 NKJV

4. By association, people and places could be holy (set apart)

Exodus 3:5 NKJV

Exodus 40:34-35 NKJV

2 Chronicles 7:1-3 NKJV

"The act or process by which finite objects become 'holy' is referred to as 'sanctification.' To sanctify, we might say, is to 'holify.'" (William Greathouse and H. Ray Dunning).

C. Two branches of holiness

1. Ceremonial—Old Testament context

— Belongs to God via contact or dedication (set apart)

READ: Exodus 29:1-9

— No ethical or moral content

2. Prophetic (ethical)—New Testament context

— Jesus' teachings, Paul's words on Christian experience, noted in Epistles

— Wesley's understanding (real change)

— "Hagios" in Greek=set apart from sinful practices and consecrated to God's service

Ephesians 5:25-26 NKJV

Deuteronomy 4:20 NKJV

1 Peter 2:9-10 NKJV

NOTE: Someone can be set apart ritually but not experience REAL transformation!

Definitions:

"Process of becoming what God has already declared us to be." (Pastor Kevin Holt)

"Progressive work of God AND man that makes us more and more free from sin and like Christ in our actual lives." (Wayne Grudem)

"The work God does IN us."

"Sanctification is God's Spirit at work in our mind, soul, spirit, body—our entire life—changing and renewing our desires, thoughts, interests, attitudes, and behaviors. Sanctification is how God transforms us into His Son's likeness. It is God's grace—His action—in us that makes us more like Christ. Given our cooperation, sanctification will change the erring sinner that we are into the likeness of His perfect son." (Keith Drury)

II. Sanctification's Practical Dilemma

A. Command of Scripture: Holiness

Matthew 5:48 NKJV

Hebrews 12:14-15 NKJV

1 Peter 1:15-16 NKJV

Ephesians 4:1 NKJV

Philippians 1:27 NKJV

NOTE: Scriptures command and admonish believers to walk in holiness and perfection.

“What kind of a father would demand something of His children that was impossible? How cruel! He calls us to holiness, then helps us become holy.” (Keith Drury).

B. The Practical Reality: Struggle with the Flesh

1. Desire to resist the flesh
2. Lack strength (on own) to do so

Romans 7:15-20 NKJV

3. This struggle brings attempt at holiness to frustrating end

Romans 7:21-24 NKJV

4. Believer’s conclusion: consistent victory over sin only possible when Christ returns/death

QUESTION: Do you agree with this conclusion? Why or why not?

C. The Dilemma

“Sin seems to reign with unconquerable power, and yet we are commanded to put off the old self with its sinful practices (Ephesians 4:22) and to work out our salvation with fear and trembling (Philippian 2:12)... How do we harmonize God’s sovereign work in conquering sin with our responsibility to live a life of consistent holiness?” (Donald Alexander)

IMPORTANT: When attempting to resolve the tension, we must keep the liberating dimension of the gospel in mind—at the cross sinners are set free, free to live!

Galatians 5:1 NKJV

Romans 6:6-7 NKJV

D. The Solution: Appropriating Christ’s Victory

Key Questions?

- Can we be free from sin or is it possible to NOT sin on earth?
- Is entire sanctification a reality prior to our death or Christ’s return?

— How can we appropriate the work of Christ? How do I love God and neighbor perfectly?

TRANSITION: Various faith traditions have unique perspectives on sanctification—especially entire Sanctification—and each attempts to relive the tension of the present dilemma.

III. Competing Views of Sanctification

NOTE: Catholic tradition understands sanctification to precede justification in their ordo salutis—right conduct precedes God's favor/approval.

	The Shorter Way (Wesleyan)	The Middle Way (Wesleyan)	The Longer Way (Wesleyan)	Keswick View	Lutheran View	Reformed View	Pentecostal
Definition	Perfect love toward God and others (Imago Dei Renewed)	Perfect love toward God and others (Imago Dei Renewed)	Perfect love toward God and others (Imago Dei Renewed)		Getting used to Justification (not separate)	Work of the Holy Spirit. Where we are delivered from pollution of sin or justified sinners,	Separation or setting apart—become more like Christ
Ordo Salutis	Any time after or simultaneously with conversion (entire)	Post conversion when grace needed is received (entire)	Long process after conversion, few experience (entire)	Subsequent to conversion	Blurred and not separated from justification	Process after Justification/Conversion	At salvation and progresses as believer continues to submit to the Holy Spirit
Understanding of Entire Sanctification	Entire Sanctification frees a person from willful sin and original sin, not infirmity (unintentional)—missing perfect will—and orients a heart of love	Entire Sanctification frees a person from willful sin and original sin, not infirmity (unintentional)—missing perfect will—and orients a heart of love	Entire Sanctification frees a person from willful sin and original sin, not infirmity (unintentional)—missing perfect will—and orients a heart of love	Christians can be free from willful sin but not liberated from original sin	Entirely sanctified acts can't be sustained	Not possible prior to death/return of Christ	Not possible in this life
Key Points	Consecration and faith are inherent powers in Christians as a result of prevenient grace/conversion	Consecration and faith are NOT inherent powers in Christians—more grace needed past conversion to appropriate. Believers cannot determine time and place	Long process of dying to self and spiritual development	Closest (but outside) Wesleyan view Can live above, not free from sin nature Willful sin is exception rather than norm in the Christian life Patterns of sin end, strongholds broken, but possibility of willful sin and probability of occasional sin remains	Christians gripped by realization of justification can do good works untainted by sin or selfishness, motivated by love for God and neighbor” Act out of “New” or “Old” nature—old not gone	Christians <u>always</u> fall short of God's love in thought, word, and deed—everything tainted by sin nature even best works Better approximate God's law, but never meeting it Imitation of Christ—outworking of union with Christ while in world	Initial (salvation) and progressive (grow in grace) Separated from sin dedicated to God Sanctification possible with the help of the Holy Spirit
Examples	Keith Drury/Wesleyan Church	Steve Deneff/Optimistic Wesley	Thomas Oden/Pessimistic Wesley	Bill Bright (Campus Crusade) John Stott	Gerhard Forde/John Brug/Martin Luther	J.I. Packer/R.C. Sproul	Assemblies of God
Connection to Entire Sanctification	Entire sanctification NOW by consecration and faith	Entire Sanctification by <u>SEEKING</u> until you <u>RECEIVE</u>	Entire Sanctification by <u>LONG PROCESS</u> of Growth	Sanctification from willful sin and momentary lapses	Entire Sanctification as a momentary but unsustainable experience	Entire Sanctification as a worthy goal, but impossible dream	Similar to Keswick Understanding

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IV. Sanctification Summarized

A. What is Sanctification?

1. Christ-likeness
2. Becoming what God declared us to be (PK)

B. When does Sanctification begin?

1. Begins at conversion
2. Called “initial sanctification”

Romans 6:8 NKJV

Galatians 2:20 NKJV

3. Set apart from world (crucified with Christ) and set apart for God.

C. Is there anything beyond “initial sanctification”?

1. “Progressive Sanctification”
2. Continuing to become like Christ

2 Corinthians 3:18 NKJV

Philippians 2:13-14 NKJV

Romans 8:13 NKJV

READ: Ephesians 4:17-5:2

Colossians 2:6-7 NKJV

READ: Colossians 3:1-17

3. Daily Christian life
4. Often full of ups and downs

D. Who helps us become like Christ?

1. Christ’s work at Calvary makes it possible

1 Corinthians 1:30 NKJV

Galatians 5:1 NKJV

Romans 6:4-7 NKJV

2. Holy Spirit

READ: Galatians 5:16-25

Romans 8:13-15 NKJV

John 14:16-17 NKJV

John 16:13-14 NKJV

E. Can I ever be free from sin, and is it possible to stop sinning? Can I have complete victory?

1. Complete consecration (surrender) is possible by God's grace, power of the Holy Spirit, and faith (change in desire and commitment).
2. Overcoming "premeditated" (willful) sin is possible (example).

READ: Romans 8:1-8

"Not my will, but yours be done."

3. Entire Sanctification

"While your performance may still be less than perfect, your heart is totally perfected in love." (Keith Drury)

- Not absolute
- Viewed as second work
- Empowered for service/baptized in the Spirit

Romans 5:5 NKJV

4. Temptation still exists even for those consecrated completely (Holy Spirit can deliver you from yielding)

NOTE: Freedom from willful sin IS possible but freedom from sin—generally speaking—falling short of perfect standard of Christ—is not achievable prior to death.

F. What next?

1. Pray asking for grace to surrender all (give all to God)

2. Overcome sin not by own strength but through “walking in Spirit”
3. Continue to “put off” old self and “put on” new man
4. Seek after complete devotion to Christ, a life committed to His ways only
5. Understand, sanctification is an ongoing process

Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.
Ephesians 5:1-2 NKJV

