

**TEACHING GOAL**

Study the process of sanctification and the tremendous battle that ensues to the obtaining of it.

**DOCTRINAL STANDARDS**

Q. What is Sanctification?

A. 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.

S.C. 35, L.C. 75, 77-78 W.C. of F. XIII, Savoy 13, Young 51

**SCRIPTURAL BASIS**

**Study Passage:** Romans 7

**Support Passages:** I Thessalonians 5:23, II Thessalonians 2:13, Romans 6, I Corinthians 6, Philippians 3:1-16, Romans 12:1-2, I Peter 1:13-21

**BIBLE STORY**

Genesis 12-25:11; The life of Abraham, often used as an example of faith and godliness, proves that perfection is impossible even to the greatest of saints.

**.MEMORY ASSIGNMENT**

Romans 12:1-2

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

**APPLICATION**

Since the old man, the sinful nature, remains in the Christian, we must make a real effort to subdue it and to conform ourselves to Christ.

## SUMMARY

We certainly do not lack for scripture passages that teach the people of God to be holy. Holiness, by the way, is simply another word that means to be sanctified. To be holy is to be separate from sin.

The difference between justification and adoption as opposed to sanctification should be obvious. The former two are acts of God while the latter is a work or process performed by God in the believer. Scripture speaks of this process in two ways, first, as a deadening of the old sinful nature and secondly, as the making alive of the new nature wherein we conform more and more to the nature of Christ.

That these two natures are present in the believer is clearly taught in Romans chapter 7. The Roman Catholic Church, however, as well as many evangelical Christians, believes that Romans 7 speaks of Paul's life before he was converted. But we notice immediately Paul's statement in verse 24, "Wretched man that I am ..." We who are Christians still have the remnants of the body of death (verses 24 and 25) and we serve both the law of God and the law of sin. That the unbeliever cannot serve the law of God at all is clear from Romans 8:7, "because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the Law of God, for it is not even able to do so." Thus we conclude that Paul speaks of his experience as a believer.

Thus Paul states the glorious truth that even though believers serve both the law of sin and the law of God, even so, there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. And there is no condition to this truth according to the Greek text, although the Authorized Version (King James) includes the last clause of verse 4 at the end of verse 1 of Romans 8. According to the Greek text, there are no ifs, ands or buts to the truth that we are not condemned even though we may fall into sin as Paul often claims to do. Thus does Spurgeon comment on this verse that we have "free justification." What a precious jewel is this! Not that we are enjoined to sin and debauch ourselves. God forbid! But even while this process of sanctification is not completed, we are not condemned. (Romans 6)

Paul refers to this same truth in Philippians 3:12, "not that I have already obtained it, or have already become perfect ...", speaking of the state of perfection obtained at the resurrection which he has not yet obtained in this life. Verse 15 must refer to maturity for Paul has already stated that he is not perfect as he will be at the resurrection from the dead. "Let us therefore, as many as are perfect (mature), have this attitude ..."

We are to be holy, even as God is holy (I Peter 1:16) and surely the holiness of God is central in scripture, for He is holy in all His attributes. Yet there is marvelous escape when we sin, "If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His

word is not in us... And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father,  
Jesus Christ the righteous."(I John 1:8-2:1) Praise God!