

Sanctification

✓ **55% of Americans believe that salvation can be earned (2002 Poll)**

✓ **This is the antithesis of grace**

✓ **We are saved by grace alone and stay saved by grace alone. Grace does not incur a debt**

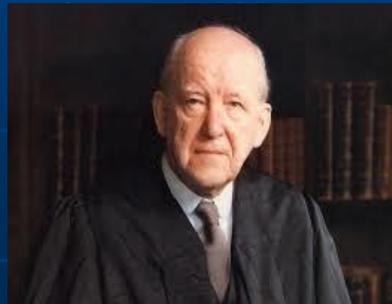
✓ **Grace is not only radical, it is scandalous**

✓ **'...we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block' (1 Cor.1:23). Skandalon - an offence**

'What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?'
(Romans 6:1-2)

“There is no better test of whether a man is preaching the New Testament Gospel of salvation than this: that some people might misunderstand it and misinterpret it to mean that...because you are saved by grace alone it does not matter at all what you do. You can go on sinning as much as you like because it will redound all the more to the glory of grace. That is a very good test of Gospel preaching. If my preaching and presentation of the Gospel of salvation does not expose it to that misunderstanding, then it is not the Gospel.”

(Martyn Lloyd-Jones)



- ✓ **We will never understand sanctification until we understand justification**
- ✓ **God's way of righteousness is not change, but exchange**
- ✓ **If I deny this I deny the gospel, I deny Christ**
- ✓ **Religion sets a standard for us that is higher than God's. His standard for us is faith in Christ**
- ✓ **To the degree that I indulge in self-righteousness, to that degree I will stumble over God's righteousness**
- ✓ **Sanctification can never affect justification, but justification is the root of sanctification**

Have we been sanctified?

or...

...are we being sanctified?

Both!

✓The words 'sanctification' and 'holiness' in the Hebrew and Greek words are both from the root meaning to cut or divide; to mark off or separate. Sanctification means to be set apart for God

✓We were predestined to this, 'He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love' (Eph.1:4)

✓The moment we were baptized into Christ we were made holy, 'But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption' (1 Cor.1:30)

- ✓ **We have died to sin and become partakers of the divine nature**
- ✓ **God's people are called 'saints', 'holy ones', 'righteous ones' 240 times**
- ✓ **We are separated unto God. We are not our own, we have been bought with a price, and are now *'His own possession'* (1 Pet.2:9)**
- ✓ **Practical sanctification is a response to our new creation identity. We choose to separate ourselves to God in our behaviour**
- ✓ **It can be summed up in the words, *'Be who you are', '...as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct'* (1 Pet.1:15)**

Examples

'For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness'

(1 Thes.4:3-7)

Remember, we are not caterpillars anymore!

'Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure'

(1 John 3:2-3)

'Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God'

(2 Cor.7:1)

- ✓ **On the one hand we must avoid passivity. Jesus did not absorb us into a mystical, universal deity. Salvation does not abolish our humanity, our individualism**
- ✓ **But on the other hand we must avoid unbiblical terminology which leads to the idea of a works-based sanctification, E.g. 'progressive sanctification'**
- ✓ ***'Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?'* (Gal.3:3)**
- ✓ **We are not justified by faith, but then sanctified by works**

- ✓ **As with Moses, the law will only make our faces shine with a fading glory**
- ✓ **The veil is removed when one turns to the Lord**
- ✓ ***'But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord'* 2 Cor.3:18**
- ✓ **When Jesus was transfigured His divine nature was manifested. He was seen for who He is**
- ✓ **Likewise, we are not transformed by trying to become what we should be, but by being who we are**

We are to think organically, not pragmatically

***'...grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord
and Savior Jesus Christ'***

(2 Pet.3:18)

**Just as our physical growth is determined by a
DNA code within us , so, spiritually, we have been
genetically structured for life and godliness**

*'As you therefore have received Christ Jesus
the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up
in Him and established in the faith'*
(Col.2:6-7)

Our focus is on the root, not the fruit

**Holiness is not a proof of sanctification, but
an expression of it**