

## ***Of Sanctification (Romans 6:5-6)***

*Baptist Confession of Faith (1689) Chapter 13, Paragraphs 1-3*

### **Doctrine**

#### *The Work of Sanctification*

- Those who are united to Christ, effectually called, and regenerated, are also farther **sanctified**.
- To be sanctified means to be **set apart** – that is, to be made more holy, like Christ.
- The work of **sanctification** occurs because we are given a new heart and spirit through the virtue of Christ's death and resurrection.
- Sanctification is God's **will** for our lives (1 Th. 4:3).
- We are sanctified in two manners –
  - i) **Really**: There is effectual change wrought in the believer;
  - ii) **Personally**: This work is carried out in the individual Christian.
- Sanctification is worked by two catalyts –
  - i) The **Word**, which reveals to us the will of God (Jn. 17:17);
  - ii) The **Spirit**, Who makes the Word effectual to the Christian (Phil. 2:13).
- Because of our union to Christ, the whole body of sin is destroyed, meaning that we are no longer slaves to sin under the tyranny of the devil, but slaves of **Christ** unto His righteousness (Rom. 6:18).
- Sanctification consists of two elements –
  - i) **Mortification**: Several lusts are more and more **weakened** and put to death, that is to be denied by the Christian (Col. 3:5-9);
  - ii) **Vivification**: The Christian is more and more quickened and **strengthened** in all saving graces, to the practice of all true holiness (Col. 3:10-17).
- Those who are **saved** demonstrate sanctification (1 Jn. 2:3-4).

#### *The Extent of Sanctification*

- Sanctification is throughout the **whole** person (1 Th. 5:23).
- Sanctification is yet **imperfect** in this life; for there still abides some remnants of corruption in every part (Rom. 7:18).
- From this disparity arises a continual and irreconcilable **war** – the flesh against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh (Gal. 5:17).
- The Christian should take comfort, for in the midst of struggling in such battle, we find some **assurance** that we are in Christ.

#### *The Outcome of Sanctification*

- In such war, the remaining corruption may for **some** time prevail (Rom. 7:19).
- Yet, through the continual supply of strength from the sanctifying Spirit of Christ, the regenerate part will **overcome** (Rom. 6:14).
- The saints will grow in **grace**, in holiness in the fear of God.
- Christians will press after an heavenly life, in evangelical (Gospel) **obedience** to all the commands which Christ, as Head and King, in His Word hath prescribed to them (Eph. 4:15).

### **Application**

- 1) **Encouragement**: May we be thankful and comforted to know that the LORD has not left us alone, but is at work in us.
- 2) **Humility**: We are growing and continuing in sanctification.
- 3) **Obedience**: We ought to obey the Word of the LORD.
- 4) **Confidence**: God has conquered all our sin and shame by the blood of His Son, our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, and will bring this work to completion!