

## Westminster Larger Catechism (WLC) 2020-2021

### Women's Thursday Bible Class #18

Prayer. Review last week up until where we left off. #17 handout

Phil. 3:6-11

Eph. 2:1-10

**Helpful observations** we begin with: We can run into problems when we -

1. Fail to make needed distinctions
2. Fail to see how all these doctrines ( benefits of salvation) are connected
3. Separate what is not separated in the Bible
4. Fail to think of salvation in a broad sense

#### Q. 77 Wherein do justification and sanctification differ?

A. Although sanctification be inseparably joined with justification, yet they differ, **in that God**

- in justification **imputeth** the righteousness of Christ;
- In sanctification his Spirit **infuseth** grace, and enableth to the exercise thereof;
- In justification , sin is *pardoned* ;
- In sanctification, it is *subdued*;
- (In justification) doth equally free all believers from the revenging wrath of God , and that **perfectly** in this life, that they never fall into condemnation;
- ( in sanctification) is neither equal in all, **not** in this life **perfect** in any ( believer) , but growing up to perfection.
- Note the contrast

Points at which justification and sanctification are the same:

1. Inseparably joined together
2. God is Author and source of both
3. Both proceed from God's grace( special love and favor to sinners)

Points at which justification and sanctification differ:

#### **Justification is:**

1. An act of God's free grace ( one time)
2. An act by which God imputes Christ's righteousness
3. An act in which God pardons sin
4. Total and equal in all believers - never increase or diminish
5. Complete and perfect in this life

6. A judicial verdict which frees from condemnation and rewards the inheritance of eternal life

**Sanctification is:**

1. A work of God's free grace. ( ongoing)
2. A work by which God infuses grace and power
3. A work in which God subdues sin
4. Different degree in different people
5. Incomplete and imperfect in this life
6. A divinely planted and watered spiritual growth of Christian character. ( growing character righteousness toward conformity to Christ)

I Cor. 6:11 and 1:30

Wish we could read Romans all of it! Rom. 4:6-8 ; 3:24-25; 6:6, 14; 8:33-34

Heb. 5:12-14 and I Cor. 3:1-2

I Jn. 2:12-14 I Jn. 1:8,10

So clearly see that sanctification in this life is imperfect, gradual growth, varies in individuals depending on their progress

*-Side point* God uses trials, difficulties to further grow us up! ( Rom. 5:1 ff and James 1: count it all joy....., IIPet. 1:2-11

**Discuss:** Why is the distinction between justification and sanctification important for us in the Christian life?

Realistically our sanctification looks like a squiggly line , with dips and flat parts to itwith upward trajectory. Draw your own.

Discuss what if you cut out a small section of that **squiggly line** and magnified it. What could you possibly say about it?

**Q. 78 Whence ariseth the imperfection of sanctification in believers?**

A. The imperfections of sanctification in believers ariseth from the remnants of sin abiding ( remaining) in every part of them, and the perpetual lustings of the flesh against the spirit;whereby they are often foiled with temptations, and fall into many sins, are hindered in all their spiritual services, and their best works are imperfect and defiled in the sight of God.

Rom. 7:18-23

Mark 14:66-72

Gal. 2:11-12

Heb. 12:1

Rom. 12:1-2

Is. 64:6

Fact: we **do** sin I Jn. 1:8, Jam. 3:2 and 5:16; Eccl. 7:20

Look back, look without you and look within you! So sanctification is imperfect in this life!

### **Discussion:**

External enemies- world, devil

Internal enemy#1- **the flesh**. What is the meaning of the term- **the flesh**- in the Bible ?

Rom. 6:6, 7:17,18,23,24 and Ezekiel 36:26

1. Physical body
2. Man in his human weakness
3. Our whole nature corrupted by sin / sinful fallen nature, remaining

According to the Bible, which is characteristic of the Christian life? Peace or conflict?

Should we become discouraged because we are fighting a hard battle with sin, struggling?

Why are the spiritual disciplines of the Christian life like prayer, regular study and reading of the Word often difficult, even for faithful , committed Christians? Gal. 5:16-17

Eph. 6: 10-18

What is the danger of the Gospel being presented as the cure all for one's earthly problems????

**Next week:** Maybe Q. 79-81 on the doctrine of assurance . Maybe more . Read at least Q. 82( summary of Q. 83 and following)