

The Holy Spirit
(Part 7: Sanctification)

VII. Sanctification.

A. Orientation: “O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me; and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them” (John 17:25-26).

1. We’ve seen thus far,
 - a. That the Spirit is a person,
 - b. That He is a divine person,
 - c. That He is a distinct person from the Father and the Son.
 - d. That He is called the Spirit because He proceeds from the Father and the Son.
 - (i) He is the love of God breathed out by the Father towards the Son,
 - (ii) And the Son towards the Father.
 - e. That His role in redemption reflects His particular nature.
 - (i) He is sent by the Father and the Son
 - (ii) To apply the work of Christ –
 - (iii) To unite Himself to your soul,
 - (iv) To work His nature in you.
2. We began with His work of regeneration.
 - a. When you came into the world, you were spiritually dead (Eph. 2:1-3).
 - (i) Because of Adam’s sin.
 - (ii) You had nothing of the Spirit.
 - (iii) And so you could do nothing good.
 - b. But He made you alive (vv. 4-10).
 - (i) He raised you from death to life
 - (ii) By becoming a principle of spiritual life in your soul –
 - (iii) By giving you the one thing you needed to trust in His Son:
 - (a) A love for holiness.
 - (b) This is nothing other than the imparting of His own nature.
 - (c) This work doesn’t end here.
 - (d) Resurrection is only the beginning.

B. Sanctification.

1. What does the Spirit want to do in your life? He aims at transformation.
 - a. “Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself,

according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved” (Eph. 1:3-6).

- (i) Did the Father choose you because you were holy and blameless?
 - (a) That’s what many professing Christians believe today.
 - (b) He looked ahead, saw you would choose Christ,
 - (c) Saw that you would become holy and blameless in Him,
 - (d) And so chose you.

- (ii) What’s wrong with this view?
 - (a) Paul does say He chose us because we were holy and blameless in Christ,
 - (b) But that we would become holy and blameless.
 - (c) It’s His choice that ends in our becoming holy.

- (iii) How do you become holy and blameless before Him?
 - (a) Only by trusting in Jesus Christ
 - (b) And turning from your sins.
 - (c) You become holy in Him.
 - (d) This is what God chose you for.

- (iv) Does that holiness and blamelessness in Jesus Christ,
 - (a) Work itself out in your life?
 - (b) Or is this holiness just positional in Christ?
 - (c) It works itself out in your life.

- (v) Whose job in the work of salvation is it to work it out? The Spirit’s.

- b. “For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified” (Rom. 8:29-30).
 - (i) This is another way of stating what we just saw:
 - (a) That He predestined us to be holy and blameless –
 - (b) Which part? Being conformed to the image of His Son.

 - (ii) Whom has He predestined to this? Those He foreknew.
 - (iii) Whom has He foreknown?
 - (a) Is it everyone, as many believe?
 - (b) No.
 - (1) Foreknowledge has to do with foreloving,
 - (2) Not merely knowing in advance
 - (3) Whether someone will receive His Son.

 - (c) What does God foreknow everyone will do apart from His grace?
 - (1) “There is none who seeks for God” (Rom. 3:11).
 - (2) He knows they will all reject Him and perish.

- (d) Those whom God loved beforehand, He predestined to become conformed to His Son.
 - (e) When does this transformation take place?
 - (1) Does it happen all at once in heaven?
 - (2) No. The work begins on earth to fit us for heaven.
 - (3) Whose work is it to do this? The Spirit's.
2. In a certain sense, the Spirit made Jesus to be what He was. "For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for He gives the Spirit without measure" (John 3:34).
- a. Who conceived the human nature of Christ in the womb of Mary?
 - (i) "The angel answered and said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God'" (Luke 1:35).
 - (ii) It was the Spirit.
 - b. Why was it the Spirit who did this?
 - (i) That this child might be the Son of God (Ibid.).
 - (ii) But also that He might be holy.
 - (iii) Edwards writes, "Christ, although he was conceived in the womb of one of fallen mankind, yet he was conceived without sin; because he was conceived by the Holy Ghost, which is divine love and holiness itself. That which infinite holiness and love immediately forms, it is impossible that it should have any sin" (MS).
 - c. Getting back to our passage, why was He anointed with the Spirit above measure?
 - (i) To fulfill prophecy, "Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one *in whom* My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry out or raise *His voice*, nor make His voice heard in the street. A bruised reed He will not break and a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish; He will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not be disheartened or crushed until He has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands will wait expectantly for His law" (Isaiah 42:1-4).
 - (ii) What was God's purpose in giving Him the Spirit?
 - (a) To equip Him for His ministry.
 - (b) Edwards believed this also brought about the hypostatic union.
 - (1) To create an identity between the Divine Logos and the man Christ Jesus
 - (2) From the time of His incarnation:
 - (3) "The creature is more or less holy according as it has more or less of the Holy Spirit dwelling in it. But Christ has so much of the Spirit and hath it in so high and excellent a manner as to render Him the same person with Him whose Spirit it is."
 - d. This adds a new dimension to our understanding of the Spirit's work. What happens when the Spirit takes up residence in your soul?
 - (i) He imparts similar characteristics.

- (a) You become His temple: “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body” (1 Cor. 6:19-20).
 - (b) You partake of His nature: “For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust” (2 Peter 1:4).
 - (c) He writes His Law on your heart: “For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and I will write them on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people” (Heb. 8:10).
 - (d) He gives you the power to live according to it: “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God *did*: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and *as an offering* for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit” (Rom. 8:2-4).
 - (e) And that with pleasure: “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome” (1 John 5:3).
- (ii) In short, He transforms your life into the image of the One whose Spirit it is.
- (a) Jesus is,
 - (1) God’s Temple: “Jesus answered them, ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’ The Jews then said, ‘It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?’ But He was speaking of the temple of His body” (John 2:19-21).
 - (2) Shares the same nature as God: “Philip said to Him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been so long with you, and *yet* you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how *can* you say, ‘Show us the Father?’” (John 14:8-9).
 - (3) Has the Law written on His heart: “Then I said, ‘Behold, I come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me. I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your Law is within my heart” (Ps. 40:7-8).
 - (4) Lived according to the Law: “Which one of you convicts Me of sin?” (John 8:46).
 - (5) And did so with pleasure: “Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work’” (John 4:34; cf. Ps. 40:8).
 - (b) This provides an interesting perspective on passages like
 - (1) Galatians 2:20, “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but *Christ lives in me*; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”

(2) And Colossians 1:25-27, “Of *this church* I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the *preaching of* the word of God, *that is*, the mystery which has been hidden from the *past* ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is *Christ in you*, the hope of glory.”

(c) To sum all this up,

- (1) The Spirit enters into your soul
- (2) And begins to transform you
- (3) From the inside out
- (4) By putting the love of holiness in your heart
- (5) So that you become more like Jesus: “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, *there* is liberty. 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 from the Lord, the Spirit” (2 Cor. 3:17-18).

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