

REDEEMED Series Road Map

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| 5. Atonement | 12. Repentance | 19. Perseverance |
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Redeemed #42 – Sanctification Part 1

Book Recommendation: *Possessed by God (NSBT Series, Vol. 1)*, David Peterson, IVP 1995

1a - Introduction to Sanctification

Theologian David Peterson:

In systematic theology, sanctification has become the basket into which every theme related to Christian life and growth has been placed. (*Possessed by God*, p13)

JC Ryle:

It is a subject which is peculiarly seasonable in the present day. Strange doctrines have risen up of late upon the whole subject of sanctification. Some appear to confound it with justification. Others fitter it away to nothing, under the presence of zeal for free grace, and practically neglect it all together. Others are so much afraid of “works” being made a part of justification, that they can hardly find any place at all for “works” in their religion. Others set up a wrong standard of sanctification before their eyes, and failing to attain it, waste their lives in repeated secessions from church to church, chapel to chapel, and sect to sect, in vain hope that they will find what they want. On a day like this, a calm examination of the subject, as a great leading doctrine of the Gospel, may be great use to our souls. (JC Ryle, *Holiness*)

AW Pink:

Many who were ill qualified for such a task have undertaken to write upon this weighty and difficult theme, rushing in where wiser men have feared to tread. Others have superficially examined this subject through the colored glasses of creedal attachment. Others, without any painstaking effort of their own, have merely echoed predecessors who they supposed gave out the truth thereon. Though the present writer has been studying this subject off and on for upwards of 25 years, he has felt himself to be too immature and too unspiritual to write at length thereon; and even now, it is (he trusts) with fear and trembling he essays to do so. May it please the Holy Spirit to so guide (the author’s) thoughts that he may be preserved from everything that would pervert the truth, dishonor God, or mislead His people. (Pink, *Doctrine of Salvation*, p3-4)

1b - Definition of Sanctification

First, 1 Peter 1 – Concept: We possess purity & set apartness

1Pet. 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, **2** according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

Second, Hebrews 10 – Concept: The redeemed Elect of God are set apart as a group:

Heb. 10:12 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, **13** waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. **14** For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

Third, John 17 – Concept: God protecting His people in being dedicated to Himself

John 17:15 I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. **16** They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. **17** Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. **18** As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. **19** And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

Fourth, 1 Corinthians 6 – Made holy by God, past tense

1Cor. 6:9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, **10** nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. **11** And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Also, in relation to the other elements in Order of Salvation:

1. Sanctification & Regeneration
2. Sanctification & Justification

1c - Two Major Concepts of Sanctification

1st – The Christian is Progressively Being Made Holy (Progressive Sanctification)

2nd – The Christian is Holy (Definitive Sanctification)

Already & Not Yet

1d - Historical issues around sanctification

1 – Before the Reformation

Augustine was the first one to develop rather definite ideas of sanctification, and his views had a determining influence on the Church of the Middle Ages. He did not clearly distinguish between justification and sanctification, but conceived of the latter as included in the former. Since he believed in the total corruption of human nature by the fall, he thought of sanctification as a new supernatural impartation of divine life, a new infused energy, operating exclusively within the confines of the Church and through the sacraments...The tendencies apparent in the teachings of Augustine came to fruition in the theology of the Middle Ages, which is found in its most developed form in the writings of Thomas Aquinas. Justification and sanctification are not clearly distinguished, but the former is made to include the infusion of divine grace, as something substantial, into the human soul...by which the soul is lifted to a new level or a higher order of being, and is enabled to achieve its heavenly destiny of knowing, possessing, and enjoying God. The grace is derived from the inexhaustible treasury of the merits of Christ and is imparted to believers by the sacraments. (Berkhof, *Systematic Theology*, p529)

2 – After the Reformation