

Sanctification from the Balcony

Q. 35. What is sanctification?

A. *Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.*

On the “dance floor” the work of God in a believer’s life can be disorienting. Instead of spiritual growth, we can feel like we are growing in our sin. When we are told to examine our lives we get discouraged.

The following chart provides a helpful illustration of the sanctification process. Notice the following things: As you grow in Christ your understanding of God’s holiness increases. The bar becomes higher. Self-justification becomes that much more unattainable. At the same time, our awareness of your sin also becomes greater. You will gain a greater sensitivity to your idolatry and mixed motives.

It is essential for a spiritual leader to help believers step onto the balcony and realize that this is the case.

The crucial step, however, is to point out how this ever growing gap between God’s holiness and our depravity actually serves to increase the cross. Growing in godliness will always have the result of increasing our understanding of and appreciation for the work of redemption accomplished by Christ.

