

## Sanctifi—what?

You need to be clear on three *-ation* words. All are translations of New Testament terms, but we don't use them every day at the coffee shop.

- 1) **Justification** – At the moment a person repents and believes in Christ, God declares that person now in right relationship with Him. He justifies us through forgiving our sins and “crediting” Jesus’ perfect obedience to us. He views us as “in Christ.” He releases us from the **penalty** of sin.
- 2) **Sanctification** – Over time and with our cooperation with His Spirit, God changes our hearts and behavior to be like His Son’s heart and behavior. He makes us like Christ. More and more, He frees us from the **power** of sin.
- 3) **Glorification** – When God takes us to Heaven, He completes His sanctifying work in our hearts and bodies. We will be sinless and transformed physically “like Christ’s glorious body.” He rescues us from the **presence** of sin.

This is the amazing work of salvation that God began in us when we first surrendered our lives to Christ! In this week’s study, we focus on *sanctification*. Here are some good definitions of God’s transforming work of grace in our lives:

*Sanctification is a progressive work of God and man that makes us more and more free from sin and like Christ in our actual lives.* Wayne Grudem

*Sanctification is progressive; it involves our partnership with God; it is rooted in the gospel; it is carried out by faith.* Owen Strachen

*To grow spiritually means to live increasingly as Jesus would in our unique place—to perceive what Jesus would if he looked through our eyes, to think what he would think, to feel what he would feel and therefore to do what he would do.* John Ortberg

*Sanctification is marked by the free, spontaneous, giving of yourself in self-forgetful and uncalculating ways.* Tullian Tchividjian

**Parents, help your children grow in the grace and truth of Jesus.** You can do that by: 1) **Sharing** what the Lord is teaching you from day to day as you follow Him. It encourages your kids’ spiritual life to know what *you* are learning in the Bible and how you’re living it out. 2) **Reading** an age-appropriate translation of the Bible with them or to them. Talk about it and pray about it together. 3) **Involving** them in Hopevale Children’s or Student’s Ministries. Your child will grow!

**Grace and Truth in My Life**  
*A Community of Grace and Truth series*

## Just Like Jesus

*“I want to grow as a Christian,” Nancy told her group. “I’m just not sure where to start.” Everyone had something to share with her . . .*

1. Pastor Dan talked about ways we can misunderstand grace. Which of these has tripped you up in the past? Which one do you tend to struggle with now?
  - ◇ My effort (apart from Jesus) *earns* God’s grace
  - ◇ God’s acceptance through Jesus *requires* no effort from me
  - ◇ God’s acceptance through Jesus *means* His Spirit empowers my efforts
  
2. If you were “*full* of grace and truth” like Jesus, how would your life be different this week? How would it change your interactions with your family, coworkers, or neighbors? Give an example.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. To what extent do you think God intends for you to become more like Jesus over your lifetime? Consider these verses as you answer:
  - 1 John 2:6—
  
  
  
  
  
  - 1 Corinthians 11:1—
  
  
  
  
  
  - Ephesians 5:1-2—
  
  
  
  
  
  - 2 Corinthians 3:18—

4. What does it take for people like us to become more like Christ? What’s our part? What’s God’s part?

*Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. Philippians 2:12-13*

5. What hinders you from becoming more like Jesus? How can you overcome these things in your life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Which of Dan’s practical suggestions struck you most? What will you do about it?

*By the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. 1 Corinthians 15:10*