Sanctification

1. Definitions

Sanctification – To purify or make holy.

Holiness – The quality of human character wherein a disciple is conformed to the separateness and moral perfection of his creator and Savior.

Righteousness – That which accords with the justice of God as revealed in his law. Right, true, straight.

1. General

1 Thess. 4:3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification…

1 Pet. 1:15…as he who called you is holy you also be holy in all your conduct.

Acts. 24:25 Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control and judgment to come…

1. 4 Views

Sanctification is:

1. Possible (“Free Grace Theology”)

Taught by Zane Hodges, Charles Ryrie, Charles Bing, Bob Wilkin, Grace Theological Society, Grace Seminary.

Doctrine:

Salvation

The sole condition for receiving everlasting life is faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ, who died a substitutionary death on the cross for man’s sin and rose bodily from the dead.

Faith is the conviction that something is true. To believe in Jesus (“he who believes in Me has everlasting life”) is to be convinced that He guarantees everlasting life to all who simply believe in Him for it.

No act of obedience, preceding or following faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, such as commitment to obey, sorrow for sin, turning from one’s sin, baptism or submission to the Lordship of Christ, may be added to, or considered part of, faith as a condition for receiving everlasting life. This saving transaction between God and the sinner is simply the giving and receiving of a free gift.

Assurance

Assurance of everlasting life is certainty that one is eternally secure simply by faith in Jesus. Assurance of everlasting life is based only on the promise God makes in His Word that everyone who believes in Jesus Christ alone possesses everlasting life. Good works, which can and should follow regeneration, are not necessary for a person to have assurance of everlasting life.

Assurance is of the essence of believing in Jesus for everlasting life. That is, until a person believes in Jesus for everlasting life, he has not yet been born again. If a person believes the promise of everlasting life to the believer, then he knows he has everlasting life.

Response

This position fails to deal with the consequences of regeneration.

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

2 Cor. 2:17 For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.

Rom. 6:6-7 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin.

1 John 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

1 John 5:18 We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.

This position is in contradiction with scriptures regarding the basis for assurance.

Rom. 8:16-17 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

2 Cor. 1:22 Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

1 John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

1. Passive
2. Programmable
3. Puritanical