

I. Introduction

A. 1 Corinthians 1:30 Chart

And because of Him you are in Christ Jesus, Who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, (1 Corinthians 1:30)

Past	Present	Future
Righteousness (occurs simultaneously with justification and regeneration)	Sanctification (lifetime process of being transformed in Christ)	Redemption (perfect and complete restoration, glorification)
"I have been saved from the penalty of sin."	"I am being saved from the power of sin."	"I will be saved from the presence of sin."
Sets a believer apart positionally from sin's penalty (Rom. 6; Acts 20:32; 26:18; 1 Cor. 1:2; 6:11; Heb. 10:10, 14)	Sets a believer apart from sin's power (John 17:17; 2 Cor. 3:18; 7:1; Phil. 1:6)	Sets a believer apart from sin's presence and possibility (Rom. 8:29-30; Phil. 3:21; 1 Thess. 3:12-13; Jude 24)

B. From Righteousness to Sanctification

1. When we surrender to Jesus, God clothes us with His righteousness—we are immediately made right.
2. At that moment we become "set apart" as uniquely God's possession. Like righteousness, this is God's work, not ours.
3. The rest of our earthly life is the combination of the gracious operation of the Holy Spirit and our responsible participation to become more like Jesus.

II. Jesus Our Sanctification

A. The starting line

1. Moment saved, also sanctified (set apart) to be conformed to the image of Christ

- a. Righteousness: “Coat” God places on us, but there’s still a problem under the coat
  - b. We are forgiven and free from an eternity of condemnation and suffering.
  - c. Sanctification begins as a result of being made righteous.
2. Progressive process
- a. Capacity to sin; inner battle within us between our old sin-led nature and our new Spirit-led nature
  - b. Inward process where God brings about holiness and change in our lives by the means of the Holy Spirit
  - c. The Holy Spirit begins a process of transforming our issues, our struggles with sin, and our past hurts of varying degrees that hinder our ability to live the life God desires for us.
  - d. We begin to view the world, people, and personal difficulties from a biblical perspective—our choices begin to be motivated by love and truth and not selfishness.

\*\*Sanctification is not about trying to be sinless in order to earn God’s favor, but rather sanctification is for our own benefit. JOY, SUCCESS, GROWTH

B. Sanctification unpacked (Romans 15:14-19)

- 1. Begins with the grace of God (righteousness) (v 15)
- 2. Paul’s goal of ministry (vs 15-16)
  - a. Paul is a priest who preaches the Gospel and presents an offering to God in the form of not just converts, but **sanctified** converts.
  - b. Sanctification is actually the goal of Paul’s ministry!
- 3. God’s work through Paul’s ministry (vs 17-19)
  - a. Through Paul, Christ has brought “the Gentiles to obedience.”
  - b. Sanctification is obedience to Jesus Christ!
    - 1) Matt 28: “teaching them to obey all I have commanded you”
    - 2) Sanctification is happening where Jesus is being obeyed.

C. Sanctification: our responsible participation

- 1. Sanctification/obedience is one of the most challenging aspects of the Christian life. This is where many throw in the towel—and only God can sort them out.
  - a. Natural tendency: embrace sin
  - b. Yet, in God’s divine wisdom, He has chosen to grant us the responsibility of working out our own sanctification.
- 2. What it looks like: purity, unity, relationally, professionally

*Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in My presence but much more in My absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God Who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. (Philippians 2:12-13)*

- a. As you have obeyed
- b. Even when I'm not looking/present
- c. Work out your transformation with fear and trembling
  - 1) Because I might lose the relationship or salvation or righteousness? No!
  - 2) But because I recognize that this is a serious and weighty responsibility and it will require surrender and sacrifice
- d. Don't worry, God is working in you so that you will not fail.

\*\*Sanctification (obedience) is the responsibility of every follower of Christ.

- This involves surrender of the body and the will to the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- It takes time and is a process that can't be hurried.
- The work of sanctification will be completed in every believer's life when they meet Jesus or when He returns.

*Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thessalonians 5:23)*

\*\*This is the real hope of every follower of Jesus!

### III. Wrapping it up

- A. Sanctification: the process of the Holy Spirit's work and our participation that results in becoming like Jesus.
  - 1. Righteousness: the coat God gives you when you surrendered to Jesus. You no longer will face the eternal penalty of your sin.
  - 2. But, what's under the coat is still a mess!
  - 3. Sanctification is that process whereby God renews and transforms your inside.
- B. Homework
  - 1. Have I surrendered my life to Jesus?
  - 2. While I already have been forgiven and made right by God through Jesus Christ, am I participating with the Holy Spirit in the process of sanctification by obeying God's Word?
  - 3. What are three areas in my life that I have not yet surrendered or have not been willing to sacrifice so that I become more like Jesus?