

First Baptist Church of Clinton, Louisiana
 1689 Second London Baptist Confession
 “Chapters 13, Of Sanctification”
 January 14, 2017

CHAPTER 13 Of Sanctification

- READ Paragraph 1 – The Nature of Sanctification
 - The material in paragraph 1 of the confession follows an AB/AB pattern, followed by the semi-colon. Definitive sanctification and progressive sanctification.
 - Definitive sanctification is asserted at the beginning. **“They who are united to Christ, effectually called, and regenerated, having a new heart and a new spirit created in them through the virtue of Christ's death and resurrection,”**
 - Next in the confession, we have progressive sanctification. They **“are also farther sanctified, really and personally, through the same virtue, by His Word and Spirit dwelling in them.”**
 - The means of sanctification are mentioned here as the Word and Spirit. Let's look at the biblical means of sanctification.
 - The Word
 - The Word of God: 1 Peter 1:22-2:3
 - The Gospel: 1 Cor 15:1-2
 - The Law (The Ten Commandments): Rom 8:3-4
 - The Spirit
 - Prayer: Acts 2:42; 1 Thess 5:16-18
 - The Church. The ordinary means of grace, pastoral leadership, discipline. Acts 2:42; Eph 4:11-15
 - The Providence of God. God's determination of providences in our lives, together with the Word of God, serves to shape us.
 - Now back to definitive sanctification again. This is the definition of it. It says, **“the dominion of the whole body of sin is destroyed.”** Rom 6:14
 - Now back to progressive sanctification. It says **“the several lusts thereof are more and more weakened and mortified, and they are more and more quickened and strengthened in all saving graces to the practice of all true holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.”**
 - This speaks of “mortification” (putting to death of the old nature) and “vivification” (bringing to life of the new nature)” See: Rom 6:5-6; Gal 5:24-25; Eph 4:17-24
 - This is important in pastoral ministry.
 - This section also teaches the necessity of holiness.
 - It speaks of **“true holiness, without which no man will see the Lord.”**

- The necessity of holiness: 2 Cor 7:1; Matt 7:21-23; Heb 12:14-15; 1 Cor 6:9; Gal 6:7-8
 - The goal of sanctification? Communion with God (the knowledge of God), the glory of God.
- READ Paragraph 2 – The Imperfection of our Sanctification
 - **“This sanctification is throughout the whole man”** 1 Thess 5:23-24
 - **“Yet imperfect in this life”** - Means incomplete. It’s not defective. But unfinished.
 - **“There abideth still some remnants of corruption in every part”**
 - No one is without sin. 1 Kgs 8:46; Eccl 7:20; Prov 20:9; 1 Jn 1:8; Jas 3:2.
 - Believers need to confess sin and pray for forgiveness: Matt 6:12-13; 1 Jn 1:9
 - There are many who teach a kind of Christian perfectionism.
 - What about passages that say we have no more sin?
 - The Bible commands that we must be perfect: Matt 5:48.
 - John says that those who are born of God do not sin: 1 Jn 3:6, 8, 9. But see again 1 Jn 1:8-10.
 - **“When ariseth a continual and irreconcilable war; the flesh lusting against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh.**
 - READ Paragraph 3 – The Continuous and Upward Movement
 - Sanctification is called a **“war.”** See Romans 7:14-8:25; Gal 5:17; 1 Pet 2:11
 - It says, **“the remaining corruption may for a time much prevail.”** Romans 7:23
 - Then it explains the means of overcoming. **“Through the continual supply of strength from the sanctifying Spirit of Christ, the regenerate part doth overcome.”** Rom 6:14
 - A definition of growth as its found in Scripture.
 - We are **“perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”**
 - We are **“pressing after an heavenly life.”**
 - We are growing **“in evangelical obedience to all the commands, which Christ, as Head and King, in His Word has prescribed.”**