

## 6) Re-establishment of the Doctrine of Sanctification in Pauline Theology

### 1. Seven Theological Errors in Traditional Sanctification Doctrine

1) In Christian tradition, sanctification has long been understood as a process of gradual moral transformation that continues throughout the believer's lifetime.

(1) However, this understanding shows a significant difference from the original meaning in Pauline theology.

(2) The error of viewing sanctification as a lifelong progressive process  
Most theological systems explain sanctification as something that continues until death.

(3) However, Paul speaks of sanctification as an already completed event.

(Rom 6:7) – “For he who has died has been justified from sin.”

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2) The error of making sanctification a second stage after justification

(1) Traditional theology constructs a two-stage structure:

1. Justification

2. Sanctification

(2) However, Paul explains salvation as a single unified event.

(1Cor 1:30)

“Christ Jesus... became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption.”

That is, justification and sanctification are not separate events.

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3) The error of making sanctification centered on human effort

(1) Many theological systems explain sanctification as the result of spiritual effort.

(2) However, Paul explains sanctification as the result of union with Christ.

(Rom 6:5) – “For if we have been united with Him in the likeness of His death...”

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4) The error of reducing sanctification to moral improvement

(1) Understanding sanctification merely as character improvement differs from Pauline theology.

- (2) For Paul, sanctification is an ontological transformation.  
(2 Cor 5:17) – “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.”
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5) the error of making sanctification an incomplete state

- (1) Many doctrines describe sanctification as something that can never be fully completed.  
(2) However, Paul already calls believers “saints.”  
(1Cor1:2) – “Those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints.”
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6) The error of confusing sanctification with growth

- (1) Most theological systems understand:  
Sanctification = Growth  
(2) However, Paul distinguishes:  
Sanctification → Event  
Growth → Process
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7) The error of making sanctification a condition for salvation

- (1) Some theological views say, “If one is not sanctified, one cannot be saved.”  
(2) However, Paul says:  
(Eph 2:8–9) – “For by grace you have been saved through faith… it is the gift of God.”
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2. Re-establishment of Sanctification in Pauline Theology

- 1) In Pauline theology, sanctification is not a process but an event.  
2) Definition of Sanctification  
Sanctification is the salvific event in which a believer becomes holy once and for all through union with Christ.  
(Heb 10:14) –
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3. Structure of Sanctification in Pauline Theology

- 1) The Event of Salvation  
(1) Union with Christ  
(2) Death to sin and resurrection to righteousness (justification) — this is the gospel  
(3) The beginning of new life — one who hears the gospel, repents, and receives the Lord Jesus Christ → These three occur simultaneously.
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## Key Scriptures

(Rom 6:6) – “Our old self was crucified with Him”

(Rom 6:11) – “Consider yourselves dead to sin but alive to God”

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## Conclusion

Sanctification is an “already accomplished identity.”

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## 4. The Decisive Difference Between Sanctification and Growth

Category	Sanctification	Spiritual Growth
Nature	Event of salvation	Process of faith
Time	Occurs once	Continues for a lifetime
Agent	God	Cooperation of the Spirit and the believer
Character	Change of being	Maturation
Result	Holy identity	Holy life
Biblical Basis	Romans 6	Ephesians 4:13

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## Core Conclusion

- 1) Sanctification is identity
  - 2) Growth is maturity
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## One-Sentence Summary

Sanctification is the already accomplished transformation of being, and growth is the process by which that being matures in life.

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## Core Structure of the Academic Paper

### 1. Title

Sanctification and Spiritual Growth in Pauline Theology:  
A Re-examination of Sanctification in the Pauline Gospel

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### I. Introduction

- 1) Purpose of the study
  - 2) Problems of traditional sanctification doctrine
  - 3) Research methodology
  - 4) Structure of the paper
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### II. Formation of Traditional Sanctification Doctrine

- 1) Understanding of sanctification in the Patristic era
  - 2) Sanctification in the medieval church
  - 3) Reformation doctrine of sanctification
  - 4) Modern evangelical views of sanctification
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### III. Theological Problems in Traditional Sanctification

- 1) Progressive sanctification doctrine

- 2) Separation of justification and sanctification
  - 3) Human-centered understanding of sanctification
  - 4) Confusion between sanctification and growth
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#### IV. Sanctification in Pauline Theology

- 1) Union with Christ
  - 2) Death to sin and resurrection to righteousness in Christ, and our union with Him
  - 3) New creation
  - 4) Identity of the saints
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#### V. Distinction Between Sanctification and Growth

- 1) Nature of sanctification
  - 2) Nature of growth
  - 3) Comparative analysis of Pauline epistles
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#### VI. Theological Implications

- 1) Re-establishment of soteriology
  - 2) Re-establishment of ecclesiology
  - 3) Identity of believers
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#### VII. Conclusion

- 1) Sanctification is an event
- 2) Growth is a process
- 3) Re-establishment of sanctification in Pauline theology