

Justification/Sanctification

by Timothy R. Jennings, M.D.

Justification - Healing Substitution Model: Is not a legal status. Instead it simply means being set right with God. Christ, as our substitute, took defective humanity upon Himself and in His person (human brain) destroyed the carnal nature, perfectly living out the law of love and developed a perfect human character. Therefore, the human race (species) was set right (justified) with God in the person of Jesus Christ. Through this achievement (a free gift), Christ's perfect character is now offered to all mankind. Each individual person is "justified" (set right) when they are won back to trust by the truth Jesus revealed. In this mindset of trust, they experience the indwelling of the Holy Spirit who "sanctifies" them by transfusing Christ's character into the believer.

Justification - Penal Substitution Model: Justification is a pronouncement rather than an achievement and is "legally" accounted to the sinner's record because Jesus paid the legal penalty the law demands and which the Father inflicted. All humanity is legally right with God because Jesus paid our legal debt, but each individual needs to accept the payment. Because of this legal payment by Christ, God "declares" the sinner "righteous" when he accepts the payment.

Sanctification - Healing Substitution Model: Sanctification is the recreation of Christ-like character in the believer by the work of the Holy Spirit in cooperation with the believer. The Holy Spirit transfuses Christ's character back into the mind/heart of the believer who willingly cooperates.

Sanctification Penal Substitution Model: The recreation of Christ-like character in the believer by the work of the Holy Spirit.

Documentation for HSM:

Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,
but a body you have prepared for me;
burnt offerings and sin offerings
you did not require. Psalms 40:6

Surely he took up our infirmities
and carried our sorrows,
yet we considered him stricken by God,
smitten by him, and afflicted.
But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was upon him,
and by his wounds we are healed. Isaiah 53:4,5

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2Cor 5:21

He himself bore our sin in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. 1Pet 2:24

[Christ] once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him. Heb 5:9

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by **taking from what is mine and making it known to you.** All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said **the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.** John 16:13-15.

This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. **I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts.** I will be their God, and they will be my people. Heb 8:10

Christ came to save fallen man, and Satan with fiercest wrath met him on the field of conflict; for the enemy knew that when divine strength was added to human weakness, man was armed with power and intelligence, and could break away from the captivity in which he had bound him. Satan sought to intercept every ray of light from the throne of God. He sought to cast his shadow across the earth, that men might lose the true views of God's character, and that the knowledge of God might become extinct in the earth. He had caused truth of vital importance to be so mingled with error that it had lost its significance. The law of Jehovah was burdened with needless exactions and traditions, **and God was represented as severe, exacting, revengeful, and arbitrary.** He was pictured as one who could take pleasure in the sufferings of his creatures. **The very attributes that belonged to the character of Satan, the evil one represented as belonging to the character of God.** Jesus came to teach men of the Father, to correctly represent him before the fallen children of earth. Angels could not fully portray the character of God, but Christ, who was a living impersonation of God, could not fail to accomplish the work. **The only way in which he could set and keep men right was to make himself visible and familiar to their eyes.** That men might have salvation he came directly to man, and became a partaker of his nature. {ST, January 20, 1890 par. 6}

The law requires righteousness,--a righteous life, a perfect character; and this man has not to give. He cannot meet the claims of God's holy law. But Christ, coming to the earth as man, **lived a holy life, and developed a perfect character.** These He offers as a free gift to all who will receive them. His life stands for

the life of men. Thus they have remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God. More than this, **Christ imbues men with the attributes of God. He builds up the human character after the similitude of the divine character,** a goodly fabric of spiritual strength and beauty. Thus the very righteousness of the law is fulfilled in the believer in Christ. God can "be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus." Rom. 3:26. {DA 762.2}

This robe, woven in the loom of heaven, has in it **not one thread of human devising. Christ in His humanity wrought out a perfect character, and this character He offers to impart to us.** "All our righteousness are as filthy rags." Isa. 64:6. Everything that we of ourselves can do is defiled by sin. But the Son of God "was manifested to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin." Sin is defined to be "the transgression of the law." 1 John 3:5, 4. But Christ was obedient to every requirement of the law. He said of Himself, "I delight to do Thy will, O My God; yea, Thy law is within My heart." Ps. 40:8. When on earth, He said to His disciples, "I have kept My Father's commandments." John 15:10. By His perfect obedience He has made it possible for every human being to obey God's commandments. **When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness.** Then as the Lord looks upon us He sees, not the fig-leaf garment, not the nakedness and deformity of sin, but His own robe of righteousness, which is perfect obedience to the law of Jehovah. {COL 311.4}

He would have us comprehend something of His love in giving His Son to die that He might counteract evil, remove the defiling stains of sin from the workmanship of God, **and reinstate the lost, elevating and ennobling the soul to its original purity through Christ's imputed righteousness.** TMK 206

"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory even as by the Spirit of the Lord" (2 Cor. 3:18). Beholding Christ means studying His life as given in His Word. We are to dig for truth as for hidden treasure. We are to fix our eyes upon Christ. When we take Him as our personal Saviour, this gives us boldness to approach the throne of grace. **By beholding we become changed, morally assimilated to the One who is perfect in character. By receiving His imputed righteousness, through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, we become like Him.** The image of Christ is cherished, and it captivates the whole being. {AG 96.4}

We aim too low. The mark is much higher. Our minds need expansion, that we may comprehend the significance of the provision of God. **We are to reflect the highest attributes of the character of God. . . . The law of God is the exalted standard to which we are to attain through the imputed righteousness of Christ.** {OHC 364.2}

The Lord Jesus loves His people, and when they put their trust in Him, depending wholly upon Him, He strengthens them. **He will live through them,** giving them the inspiration of His sanctifying Spirit, **imparting to the soul a vital transfusion of Himself. He acts through their faculties** and causes them to choose His will and to act out His character. With the apostle Paul they then may say, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but **Christ liveth in me:** and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Gal. 2:20). . . . {TMK 78.4}

The ethics inculcated by the gospel acknowledge **no standard but the perfection of God's mind,** God's will. God requires from His creatures conformity to His will. **Imperfection of character is sin, and sin is the transgression of the law.** All righteous attributes of character dwell in God as a perfect, harmonious whole. **Every one who receives Christ as his personal Saviour is privileged to possess these attributes. This is the science of holiness. . . .**

The glory of God is His character. . . . This character was revealed in the life of Christ. That He might by His own example condemn sin in the flesh, **He took upon Himself the likeness of sinful flesh.** Constantly He beheld the character of God; constantly He revealed this character to the world. Christ desires His followers to reveal in their lives this same character.

Before the world, God is developing us as living witnesses to what men and women may become through the grace of Christ. **We are enjoined to strive for perfection of character.** The divine Teacher says, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Matt. 5:48). **Would Christ tantalize us by requiring of us an impossibility? Never, never!** What an honor He confers upon us in urging us to be holy in our sphere, as the Father is holy in His sphere! He can enable us to do this, for He declares, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth" (Matt. 28:18). This unlimited power it is our privilege to claim. . . .

God works with those who properly represent His character. Through them His will is done on earth as it is done in heaven. . . .

It is our lifework to be reaching forward to the perfection of Christian character, striving constantly for conformity to God's will. Day by day we are to press upward, ever upward, until of us it can be said, "Ye are complete in him" (Co. 2:10). {TMK 131}