

17. Sanctification

BC 24; Canons 3&4:9; 5:3-8,12

Sanctification

God frees us from the bondage of sin & causes us to begin to live according to His will [BC 24; LD 33,44].

The two parts of conversion [LD 33]

For a work to be a good work, it must... [HC 91]

Proceed from faith

Be performed according to God's law & to His glory

Proof that an unbeliever cannot do good works.

[Mt. 7:17-18] Only corrupt fruit from a corrupt tree [Canons 3&4:11].

[Rom. 14:23] Whatsoever is not out of faith is sin.

[Heb. 11:6] Without faith it is impossible to please God.

[John 15:4-5] Apart from Christ we can do nothing good.

How God chastens us if we walk in sin [Canons 5:5]

Proof that repentance is a gift from God.

[Acts 5:31] God gave repentance to Israel.

[Acts 11:18] God gave repentance also to Gentiles.

How sanctification is related to glorification

It is the beginning of God's work of glorifying us [Rom. 8:30; II Cor. 3:17-18].

Preservation of the Saints

What is meant by the preservation of the saints

A true believer will never lose his salvation [Canons 5:7].

God does not wholly withdraw His Spirit from His people, even in their falls.

Proof that it is impossible for a believer to perish.

[John 10:28] Christ gives us [everlasting] life. We shall never perish.

[Phil. 1:6] God will perform the good work He has begun in us.

[Phil. 2:13] God works in us both to will and to do of His good pleasure.

The certainty of perseverance does not excite in us pride. Rather... [Canons 5:12].

Passages said to deny the preservation of the saints

[Heb. 6:4-6] Speaks of temporary faith, not genuine faith

[I John 2:19] Those who fall away never were believers.