

**THE GRACE OF GOD**  
**Sanctifying Grace**  
**God is sanctifying believers and one day will glorify them!**  
**Romans 8:28-30**

**Big Idea:** God is using all things to conform us to the image of Christ and to share in his glory.

**Read Passage**

**1. We know with certainty that God is conforming us to the image of Christ (8:28-29).**

**God's gracious work:**

**a. It is continual (v. 28)**

“all things work together”

**Romans 8:18**

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

**b. It is beneficial**

“for good”

**c. It is conditional**

> “for those who love God” (v. 28a)

> “for those called according to his purpose” (v. 28b)

**Romans 1:5–7**

5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, 6 including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, 7 To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**d. It is intentional (v. 29)**

**(1) To conform believers to the image of Christ (v. 29a).**

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son,

**2 Corinthians 3:18**

18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

**(2) To exalt Christ among many believers (v. 29b).**

in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

**2. We know with confidence that God will glorify us with Christ (8:30).**

30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

**God's sovereign work:**

**a. Foreknew** – To know something before it happens.

It was not because He foresaw something acceptable in us, not even because he foreknew that we would believe the gospel, that He singled us out for such an honor as this. The ground must be sought exclusively in His own gracious character. **F. F. Bruce**

**b. Predestined** – It means “to mark of in advance.”

**Ephesians 1:3–6**

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he

predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

**Ephesians 1:11–12**

11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, 12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.

**c. Called** – God initiates salvation by calling us to himself through the gospel.

**2 Thessalonians 2:13–14**

13 But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. 14 To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Christina life began not with our decision to follow Christ but with God's call to us to do so. He took the initiative in his grace while we were still in rebellion and sin. In that state we neither wanted to turn from sin to Christ, nor were we able to. But he came to us and called us to freedom. **John Stott**

**d. Justified** – We are declared not guilty but righteous by God.

**Romans 5:1**

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**e. Glorified** – Our bodies will be transformed into a glorious body like Christ.

**Romans 8:10–11**

10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

**Romans 11:33–36**

33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!  
How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!  
34 "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?"  
35 "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?"  
36 For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

### **Benediction**

**1 Thessalonians 5:23–24**

23 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. 24 He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.