

Opening Discussion Question - "After I place my trust in Christ for salvation, does it matter how I live? If yes, then why does it matter? And, how does it matter?"

Bonus - "How do we frequently 'get this wrong', get confused, or get caught up in misunderstanding this topic?"

Place my trust in Christ →→→→→→→→→→→Eternal Life/Entrance to the Kingdom

What about how I live? Does how I live affect my entrance to the Kingdom?

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graph TD
    A[Place my trust in Christ  
OR  
Eternal Life/Entrance to the Kingdom] --> B[Living well]
    A --> C[Living not-well]
  
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Could mean...

Living well → → → → Keep my salvation = Entrance to Kingdom

↗

Place my trust in Christ OR

↘

Living not-well → → → → Lose my salvation = Loss of Entrance

	Living well →→→ Proves I was actually 'saved'/elect = Entrance
	↗ Perseverance
Place my trust in Christ	OR
	↘
	Living not-well →→→ Proves I was never actually saved/elect
	Lack of perseverance = Loss of Entrance

Any problems with these views?

Or, perhaps...

Living well →→→ Experience Eternal Life/Life in the Spirit
 ↗ Intimate fellowship with Christ
 ↗ = Experience eternal life now/reward at Bema Seat

Place my trust in Christ →→→→→Eternal Life/Entrance to the Kingdom = Guaranteed

↘
 Living not-well→→→Harms my fellowship with Christ,
 Experience death in temporal sense
 = Lack of reward at Bema Seat

A Truths

B Truths

Things that Happened at moment of Faith
 Trust in Christ for Salvation
 Position
 Great White Throne
 Sanctification - set apart
 Justification

Things that are possible for us to do/not do
 Discipleship
 Condition
 Judgement Seat of Christ
 Sanctification - progressive transformation
 Sanctification

Key idea - Don't use passages that speak to B Truths to make decisions about A Truths.

Bottom line - As a believer, God has a sanctification agenda for you. Do you?
 Be holy for I am holy. Leviticus 17:44 and 1 Peter 1:16

Definitions

Sanctification - Set Apart Positionally

1 Corinthians 6:11 - And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Hebrew 10:10 - And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Vs.

Sanctification - Progressive Transformation into the image of Christ

1 Thessalonians 5:23 - 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.

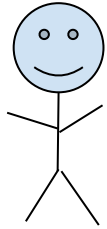
Romans 1:7a To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints

Ephesians 2:8-10 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Sanctification - We are Both Positionally Set Apart AND Called to Transformation

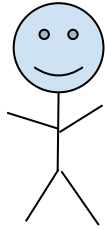
1 Cor. 1:2 To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

Practical and Personal vs. Theoretical and Systematic



Person 1

Has Never Trusted
Christ and is Walking
away from the Lord



Person 2

Has Professed Trust in Christ

BUT

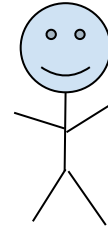
A. Not living in a God-honoring
manner willfully

OR

B. Not experiencing what they
believe they ought to in
the Christian life (no peace, no
Fruit of the Spirit) or perhaps has
done something really bad - both
are worried about whether they are
really saved

OR

C. Not pursuing sanctification/
Progressive Transformation - apathetic
or stalled out



Person 3

Professed Trust in Christ
AND is 'running well'

View from the Outside..

- We tend to think that we a) can make a definitive statement about the 'destination' of folks and b) that we ought to do so.

Better to ask - What does God's Word have to say for each individual

Person 2.B

For example..New Identity - these verses refer to the simplicity of belief/faith for salvation and/or are truths that are past perfect tense, i.e. they are completed actions that are permanent and irreversible.

- A. John 3:14-15 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life.
- B. John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.
- C. John 5:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.
- D. John 20:30-31 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book, but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing, you may have life in His name.
- E. Romans 3:28 For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.
- F. Romans 4:3-5 For what does the Scripture say? 'Abraham believed God and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as what is due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness.
- G. Romans 5:1 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.
- H. Romans 6:3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?
- I. Romans 6:4a We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death...
- J. Romans 6:6-7 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin.
- K. Romans 11:29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.
- L. 2 Cor. 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
- M. Galatians 2:20a I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.
- N. Ephesians 1:13-14 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.
- O. Ephesians 2:4-7 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
- P. Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.
- Q. Ephesians 2:19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

- R. Colossians 1:13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,
- S. Colossians 1:21-22a And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death...
- T. Colossians 2:12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.
- U. Colossians 2:13-14 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.
- V. Colossians 3:3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
- W. 1 Peter 1:3-5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Person 2.A - Could use some of the New Birth truths from 1.B

'Imperatives' - for those who are apathetic about their sin.

- A. Romans 6:1-2 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?
- B. Romans 6:11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.
- C. Romans 6:12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.
- D. Romans 6:13a Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness...
- E. Romans 6:13b ...but present...your members to God as instruments for righteousness.
- F. Romans 12:1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.
- G. Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
- H. Romans 12:9 Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.
- I. Romans 13:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.
- J. Galatians 5:16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

- K.** Colossians 3:1 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.
- L.** Colossians 3:5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you:[\[b\]](#) sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.
- M.** Colossians 3:7-8 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.
- N.** Colossians 3:12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience...
- O.** Colossians 3:14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.
- P.** 2 Timothy 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.
- Q.** 1 Peter 1:14-16 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."
- R.** 1 Peter 2:1 So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.
- S.** 1 Peter 2:11 Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.
- T.** 2 Peter 1:5-7 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.
- U.** 2 Peter 3:14 Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.
- V.** 2 Peter 3:18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Person 2.C - combination of both of the above, with an addition of judgement of believers...

- A.** 1 Corinthians 3:11-15 For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation

survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

- B.** 2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.
- C.** James 2:12-13 So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy.
- D.** John 15:3-6 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.
- E.** 1 John 2:28 And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.

Person 3...Running Well

- A.** 1 Corinthians 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.
- B.** 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 – Paul's thorn and "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."
- C.** Galatians 5:7 You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth?
- D.** Galatians 5:25-26 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.
- E.** Philippians 3:12-15 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you.
- F.** 2 Peter 1:1-2 To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.
- G.** 2 Peter 1:8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Walkthrough of 2 Peter 1

Motivation for Sanctification

Understanding How Much We've Been Forgiven

Luke 7:47
Romans 12:1

Reward & Future Glory/Loss of Reward

1 Corinthians 3:11-15
2 Corinthians 5:10
1 John 2:28

Desire to Please Him

2 Corinthians 5:9

Love of God

Ephesians 3:17-19
1 John 4:19
2 Corinthians 5:14
Romans 5:8

Not Our Own

1 Corinthians 6:19

Understanding of Our Position

Colossians 3:1-4
2 Corinthians 6:14-17

Desire More Intimate Fellowship with Christ

John 14:15
John 15:10 & 14
Revelation 3:20

Discussion Question #2 - "Think of a time when you grew significantly in your walk with Christ/conformed more to the image of Christ. What circumstances led to this growth? How did God bring it about?"

Hebrews 12 –

From our perspective - _____

From God's perspective _____

Mechanics of Sanctification**Some Key Passages**

- A. John 15:3-5 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.
- B. Romans 8:5-8 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
- C. Galatians 5:16-17 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.
- D. Galatians 5:22-23a But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control

Biggest Obstacles to Sanctification -

- 1) Our difficulty in admitting our own sin as sin and the ongoing existence of our flesh.
- 2) Our difficulty in relying on God's grace to address our sin rather than rely on our flesh to sanctify itself.
- 3) Accepting God's provision by faith to do a work I am unable to do in my own strength and step out in faith on this truth.

EQUALS - The Gospel for Believers

Romans 1:11 & 15 For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you...So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

Colossians 2:6 Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him

- 1) Our difficulty in admitting our own sin as sin and the ongoing existence of our flesh.
 - a) This includes understanding that what is happening in my heart and overflowing into my life falls short of God's glory and holiness is *actually* sin.
 - b) I am *not* "just a sinner saved by grace" – this tends to let us let ourselves off the hook: "I'm just an angry person." "This is just who God made me." "If you grew up in the home I did, you'd be angry too." "If you had to deal with my kid, you'd be angry too."
 - c) Instead, Scripture teaches that I am "a saint who still sins in my flesh".
 - d) I need to take seriously God's sanctification agenda for me rather than rely on my 'saved-ness' as a reason to not pursue His agenda.
- 2) Our difficulty in relying on God's grace to address our sin rather than rely on our flesh to sanctify itself.
 - a) According to God's Word, I am literally a new person. Can I trust that what God accomplished on the Cross is fully sufficient not just to bring me to salvation, but to complete my sanctification and glorification?
 - b) There's nothing that I can do that wasn't nailed to the Cross with the writ of legal demands in Colossians 2 – that was all sin that I would ever commit, even what I would do after I trust Christ for salvation.
 - c) If you want to prove to yourself the limits and futility of your flesh, make a resolution to work on a sin, e.g. anger. Good luck!
- 3) Our difficulty in connecting the gospel to our hearts so that we can actually walk in the Spirit, walking by faith into life that we do not see or fully understand but believe by faith that God can transform me through the work of the Spirit.

- a) Galatians 5:16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. This means that it is possible, in the moments that I am walking by the Spirit, that I will not be in sin.
- b) This can't be automatic for believers, or we wouldn't be exhorted to do it/warned if we don't.
- c) Galatians 5:22-23a But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control... This is a product of the Holy Spirit working in us and is not based on our own effort.
- d) 2 Corinthians 5:7 We walk by faith and not by sight. Can we trust the Lord to change us even when we can't conceive of that happening?
- e) There is a call to a partnership with the Holy Spirit in this process. There are too many instructions in the New Testament to ignore a call on our participation, but the result is always the fruit of the Spirit and not our own efforts

Further Resources:

Questions about "A Truths and B Truths" -
[Grace, Salvation & Discipleship](#), by Charlie Bing.

Helpful BTC classes whose recordings can be found on the website:

Position vs Condition or Existence of Relationship vs Quality of Fellowship:

1 John - Don Den Hartog. Go to "Class and Seminar Recordings", "New Testament" button, and scroll through until 1 John - Intimate Fellowship with Christ

Walking in the Spirit:

Galatians - John Morrison. Go to "Class and Seminar Recordings", "New Testament" button, and scroll through until the second Galatians (not the one for small groups), specifically sessions 10 and 11 on Walking in the Spirit.

Identity Truths:

Marriage Counseling Training - John Morrison. Go to "Class and Seminar Recordings", "Biblical Soul Care" button, and find "Previous - Marriage Counseling Training", specifically sessions 3, 4 & 5.