## GROWING IN HOLINESS AND CHRISTLIKENESS: THE BIBLICAL DOCTRINE OF SANCTIFICATION

Bruce A. Ware, Professor of Christian Theology, Southern Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky

## SESSION ONE: SANCTIFICATION AS POSITIONAL AND PROGRESSIVE

I.	Introduction: Roots of the Reformed Doctrine of Sanctification in the Grace vs. Nature Debates of
	Augustine and Pelagius, Luther and Erasmus, Calvin(ists) and Arminius, Edwards/Whitfield and the
	Wesleys (John and Charles)

Wesleys (John and Charles)
A. Augustine and Pelagius—Efficacious Grace vs. Pelagianism
B. Luther and Erasmus—Efficacious Grace vs. Semi-Pelagianism
C. Calvin(ists) and Arminius—Efficacious Grace vs. Classic Arminianism
D. Edwards/Whitfield and the Wesleys (John and Charles)—Efficacious Grace vs. Wesleyan Arminianism

- II. Positional/Definitive Sanctification as the basis for Progressive/Incremental Sanctification; or, the Indicative (who we *are* in Christ) as the basis for the Imperative (how we should *live* as Christians)
  - A. Positional Sanctification: the present position or status of believers, from the moment of their conversion, of being definitively and unalterably separated unto God, in Christ. Thus, they are called "saints" or holy ones indicating their irreversible new identity as those who are separated from darkness to light, from the dominion of Satan to the kingdom of God's beloved Son Acts 26:18; 1 Cor 1:2; 6:11; Col 1:13-14; Heb 10:10 (cf. Rom 6:1-11; Eph 1-3)
    - Acts 26:18 [Paul's missionary call to the Gentiles]: to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me. 1 Cor 1:2 To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified [perf ps prtc] in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our

Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours

- 1 Cor 6:11 Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified [aor ps prtc], but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.
- Col 1:13-14 <sup>13</sup> For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
- Heb 10:10 By this will we have been sanctified [perf ps prtc] through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.
- B. Progressive Sanctification: the continuous operation of the HS, enjoining the believer's willful participation, to strengthen our newly imparted disposition toward holiness, freeing us increasingly from the power of sin and renewing us increasingly into the image of Christ Rom 6:19; Col 1:10-14; 2 Cor 3:18; 1 Thess 4:3; 5:23; 2 Tm 2:21 (cf. Rom 6:12-23; Eph 4-6)
  - Rom 6:19 I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.
  - Col 1:10-14 <sup>10</sup> so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; <sup>11</sup> strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. <sup>13</sup> For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
  - 2 Cor 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.
  - 1 Thess 4:3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality
  - 1 Thess 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
  - 2 Tim 2:21 Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.