

APPLYING TRUTH TO LIFE

Grace Gatherings

THEOLOGY NIGHTS | JULY 3, 2024

GRACE CHURCH
WILLIAMSBURG

Question 20

Explain the **synergistic** nature of sanctification being sure to describe the **relationship** between **God's grace** and **moral effort** in the Christian life.

Question 20

Sanctification (present and progressive):

Our **sanctification** is the **process** of **growing in** our [knowledge], trust, and dependence on God especially in our suffering. *(Heath Lambert)*

The **synergistic** nature of our sanctification is:

God's activity/energy/work

combined with

the activity/energy/work **of a believer**

to accomplish a believer's **spiritual growth**.

Question 20

Sanctification (present and progressive):

- Our sanctification is a **progressively** motivating and empowering work of God where we **obediently cooperate** with the priority and work of the Holy Spirit for our **growth** in Christlikeness (holiness).
 - 2 Corinthians 3:18 – believers “...**are being** transformed...”
 - Colossians 1:13-14 = **past** tense, spiritual, and **exclusive** work of God to **get** us in Christ.
 - Colossians 1:28-29 = **present** tense, spiritual, and **cooperative** work of God and us to **grow** us in Christ.
 - As believers who **have been** spiritually joined with Jesus Christ for all eternity, here and now we must **grow in** likeness to Jesus (into His image) in increasing, but varying, **degrees** throughout our lives.

Question 20

Progressive sanctification is a **gradual process of becoming** more like Jesus in attitudes and actions, and whereby “the Spirit enables the believer both to **put off** sinful patterns of life and **replace** them with holy ones.” *(Jay Adams)*

These **put-off** and **put-on** motifs are shorthand for referring to how we **cooperate** with God in our fight against sin and in our striving to please Jesus in all things.

We also refer to this process of our growth as **repent** and **replace**. What makes this process of growth necessary for us is that **we are not in heaven yet**. We are not yet **complete/mature** in Christ. We must deal with the reality of sin.

Question 20

Sin works against our faith walk with Jesus. What is sin?

- *“Everyone who does sin also does lawlessness; and sin is **lawlessness**.”* (1 Jn. 3:4)
- Sin is **criminality** against God; it is **disobedience** of heart/action.

Where does sin come from?

- Mark 7:18-23

Question 20

What is our heart?

- The **center of our personhood**, comprised of our mind, will, emotions, and affections (some include conscience, as well).
 - **Mind** = thought life (beliefs, perceptions, interpretations, etc.)
 - **Will** = choices (choosing to put your thought life in motion)
 - **Emotions** = feelings (fear, worry, anxiety, anger, depression, envy, etc.)
 - **Affections** = desires (what we treasure, want, pursue)
- Your will/choosing/volition, your emotions/feelings, and your affections/desires are all driven by what you **think**. And what you think always drives what you **do**.

Question 20

Your heart is the **control center** of your life—not your brain, but your heart.

In your walk with Jesus, Satan schemes to **draw your heart away** from worshiping Jesus. How does he do this?

- *“But I fear that, as the Serpent **deceived** Eve by his craftiness, **your minds will be corrupted** from the **simplicity and purity of devotion** to Christ.”* (2 Cor. 11:3)
 - Heart and mind are interchangeable in Scripture.
- Satan works and schemes to deceive us in our devotion to, or in our **heart-worship of, Jesus**.
- How? By **corrupting** our **minds/hearts**. We can be religious, we can do religious things, but we can't be allowed to be devoted to Jesus.

Question 20

In what ways does Satan succeed in corrupting our minds?

- Through lies, false doctrine, and deception, all concerning the truth of God.

Satan plays games with our **worship and loyalties**, with our sincere and pure devotion to Jesus Christ. He does so by tempting us with **idol** worship.

Question 20

What are **idols** of our hearts?

- An idol is anything or anyone that begins to capture our hearts more than God. Matthew 6:19-24
 - Our eyes emphasize what we **focus** on, what we hold in front of us, or are **fixed** on—what we choose to see as most important and worth our energies.
- Idols are God-substitutes, false gods, God-replacements which we look to, trust in, or depend on in ways we should be trusting in God alone.

Question 20

God tells us how we are to combat idols (false worship):

- *“Little children, **guard** yourselves from idols.”* (1 John 5:21)
- *“My son, pay attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them deviate from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart. For they are **life** to those who find them and **healing** to all his flesh.”*

Therefore...

- *“**Guard** your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.”*
(Prov. 4:20-23).
- *“You, my son, listen and be wise, and **direct** [guide] your heart in the way.”*
(Prov. 23:19)

Question 20

We need God and His Word to **help us** guard and direct our hearts because:

- *“He who **trusts in** his own heart is a fool, but he who **walks wisely** will escape.”* (Prov. 28:26) – Why should you **not** trust in your own heart?
 - *“The heart is **more deceitful than all else** and is **desperately sick; who can know it?**”* (Jer. 17:9) – God gives you three reasons **not** to trust your heart:

Question 20

We need God and His Word to **help us** guard and direct our hearts because:

- *“He who **trusts in** his own heart is a fool, but he who **walks wisely** will escape.”* (Prov. 28:26) – Why should you **not** trust in your own heart?
 - *“The heart is **more deceitful than all else** and is **desperately sick**; who can **know it?**”* (Jer. 17:9) – God gives you three reasons **not** to trust your heart:
 1. It’s more deceitful than anything else in your life.

Question 20

We need God and His Word to **help us** guard and direct our hearts because:

- *“He who **trusts in** his own heart is a fool, but he who **walks wisely** will escape.”* (Prov. 28:26) – Why should you **not** trust in your own heart?
 - *“The heart is more deceitful than all else and is **desperately sick**; who can know it?”* (Jer. 17:9) – God gives you three reasons **not** to trust your heart:
 1. It’s more deceitful than anything else in your life.
 2. It’s desperately sick (incurable); it’s beyond your ability to cure/remedy.

Question 20

We need God and His Word to **help us** guard and direct our hearts because:

- *“He who **trusts in** his own heart is a fool, but he who **walks wisely** will escape.”* (Prov. 28:26) – Why should you **not** trust in your own heart?
 - *“The heart is **more deceitful than all else** and is desperately sick; **who can know it?**”* (Jer. 17:9) – God gives you three reasons **not** to trust your heart:
 1. It’s more deceitful than anything else in your life.
 2. It’s desperately sick (incurable); it’s beyond your ability to cure/remedy.
 3. On your own, you cannot know (understand) your own heart.

Question 20

For these reasons, God tells us:

- *“I, Yahweh, **search** the heart; I **test** the inmost being, even to give to each man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.” (Jer. 17:10)*
- *“For the Word of God is **living** and **active** and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and **able to judge** the **thoughts** and **intentions** of the **heart**. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are **uncovered** and **laid bare** to the eyes of Him to whom we have an account to give.”
(Heb. 4:12-13)*

Question 20

Because your heart is susceptible to spiritual deception (2 Cor. 11:3), it will **lie** to you. This is why we must guard and guide our hearts. HOW?

- Your heart must be **submitted** to God and **saturated** with His truth; otherwise it will be **deceived** and your devotion will go to idols which will rule you.

GRACE CHURCH
WILLIAMSBURG