

Session 4:

Biblical Theology of Spiritual Growth



Emergence Winter Sessions 2024

SANCTIFICATION Refers broadly to the concept of being set apart as sacred. In Gen 2:3, God “sanctified” the seventh day, meaning He set it apart as sacred. In Leviticus, Yahweh tells the entire people of Israel to maintain being sanctified (Lev 11:44–45). This aspect of the concept of sanctification is closely related to holiness and biblical regulations for maintaining purity. The New Testament similarly reflects the idea that followers of Christ have been sanctified or set apart as a result of Christ’s holiness (Acts 20:32; 26:18; 1 Cor 1:30; 2 Thess 2:13).

Doug Mangum, “Sanctification,” ed. John D. Barry et al., *The Lexham Bible Dictionary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016).

JUSTIFIED

“ . . . and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,” – Romans 3:24

SANCTIFIED

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 Corinthians 3:18

GLORIFIED

“When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.” – Colossians 3:4

Leviticus 10:10

You are to distinguish between the holy and the common, and between the unclean and the clean

“holy” – קֹדֶשׁ (qō’děš “qōdesh”)

And my holy name I will make known in the midst of my people Israel, and I will not let my holy name be profaned anymore. And the nations shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel. – Ezekiel 39:7

Then the men of Beth-shemesh said, “Who is able to stand before the Lord, this holy God? And to whom shall he go up away from us?” – 1 Samuel 6:20

You shall take the ram of ordination and boil its flesh in a holy place. – Exodus 29:31

I am the Lord, your Holy One,
the Creator of Israel, your King.” – Isaiah 43:15

For seven days you shall make atonement for the altar and consecrate it; then the altar shall be most holy, and whatever touches the altar shall be holy. Exodus 29:37

Consecrate yourselves, therefore, and be holy, for I am the LORD your God. Keep my statutes and do them; I am the LORD who sanctifies you. — Leviticus 20:7

“The fact that we’ve been created in God’s holy image, however, implies that we’re created to reflect his holiness. God’s image is related to what we *are*, and “imaging” is something we should *do*. Since there is no one like God, there are, even before the fall, creaturely limits to the holiness and glory that inheres and is being reflected through his image bearers. Nevertheless, as those created in God’s image, the man and the woman are to reflect his glory and holiness both individually and in relation to one another.”¹

¹Marny Köstenberger, *Sanctification: As Set Apart and Growing In Christ*, p.1

Exodus 19:5-6

“Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; ⁶ and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”

“In the final analysis, Israel’s task as a ‘holy nation’ was to sanctify the Lord before the nations by responding appropriately to him as the Holy One. God’s honour and the salvation of the nations were at stake here. As Israel pursued the path of holiness, God promised to bless her and make her a blessing to the nations.”¹

¹David Peterson, *Possessed by God: A New Testament Theology of Sanctification and Holiness*, 24.

So the LORD said to Moses, “Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him. (Numbers 27:18)

When they came to Gibeah, behold, a group of prophets met him [Saul], and the Spirit of God rushed upon him, and he prophesied among them. (1 Samuel 10:10)

Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah. (1 Samuel 16:13)

Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the LORD tormented him. (1 Samuel 16:14)

Psalm 51:10-11

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

“The great news (“the Gospel according to Moses”) is that God himself is willing to bring about the changes they (and we) need. For Moses, this need is highlighted by his use of the idea of ‘circumcising the heart’.”¹

¹J. Gary Millar, *Changed into His Likeness: A Biblical Theology of Personal Transformation*, 104.

Deuteronomy 30:6

“And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.”

Jeremiah 24:7

“I will give them a heart to know that I am the LORD, and they shall be my people and I will be their God, for they shall return to me with their whole heart.”

(See also Ezekiel 11:19-20 and 36:24-28)

John 1:14

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. — Matthew 28:18-20

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” - Acts 1:8

Acts 20:32

And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

John 17:15-20

“I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

²⁰ “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, . . .”

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.”

Galatians 5:22-26

“. . . the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

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.

1 Thessalonians 4:2-8

“For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. ³ For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; ⁴ that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, ⁵ not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; ⁶ that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. ⁷ For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. ⁸ Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.”

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

“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. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.”

1. God's desire is for believers' *complete sanctification*.
2. The time at which this comprehensive sanctification will be complete is on *judgment day*.
3. At the root, sanctification is God's work, not that of believers.
4. Because it is God who does the work, our ultimate and complete sanctification is an *absolute certainty*.¹

¹Marny Köstenberger, Sanctification: As Set Apart and Growing In Christ, p.63

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:6)

For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.
(Hebrews 10:14)

Hebrews 10:19-25

“Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near..”

Hebrews 10:26-31

For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

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Hebrews 10:24-25

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near..”

Three main purposes for the local church

- 1) To come together and worship God as the Body of Christ.
- 2) To exist as a community of Christ-followers who support, encourage, and equip one another.
- 3) To serve as ambassadors, or representatives, of God's kingdom in order to accomplish His work in the world.

Hebrews 5:11-14

“About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil...”

Jerimiah 17:5-9

Thus says the LORD:

5 “Cursed is the man who trusts in man
and makes flesh his strength,
whose heart turns away from the LORD.

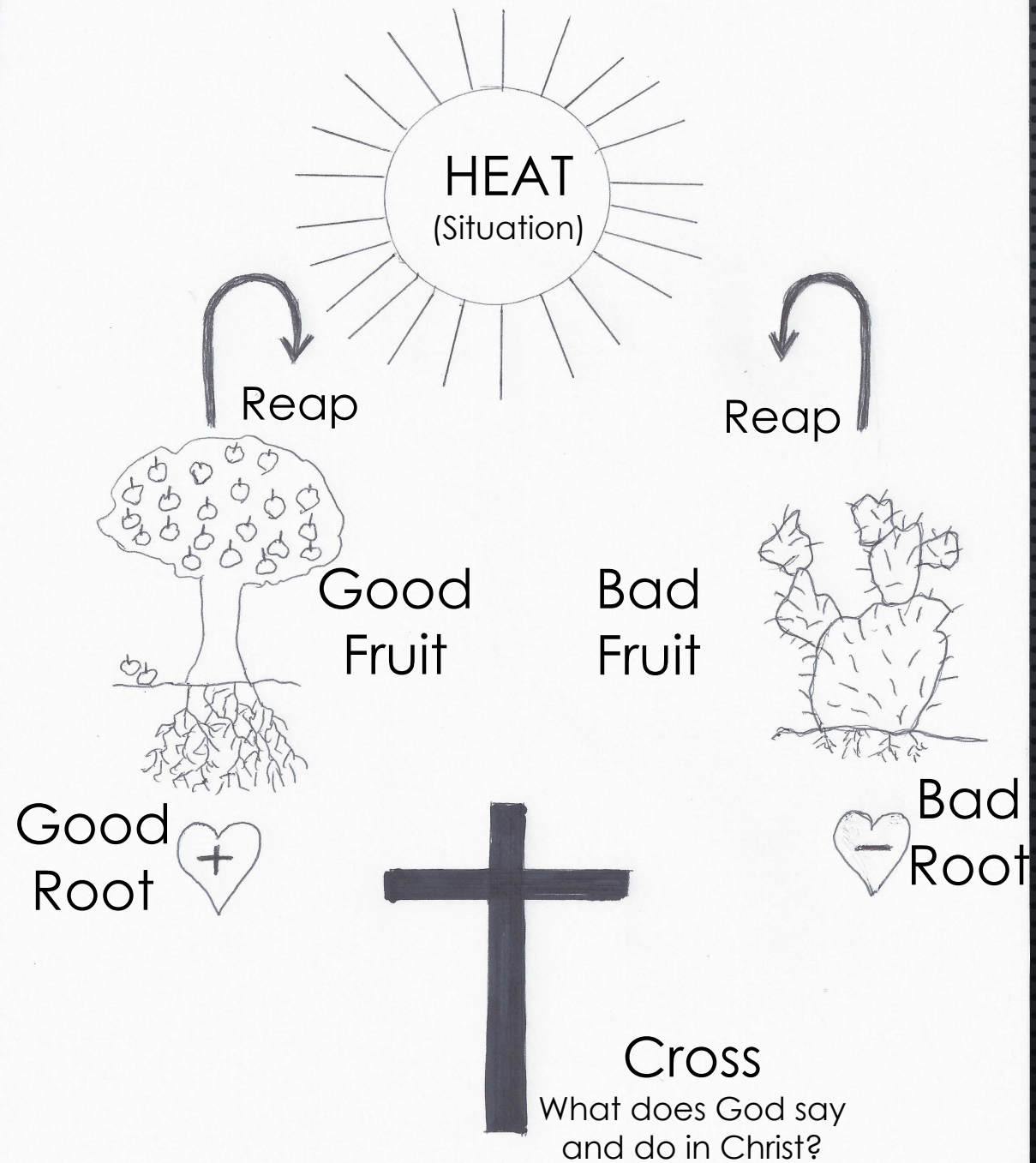
6 He is like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see any good come.

He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

7 “Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.

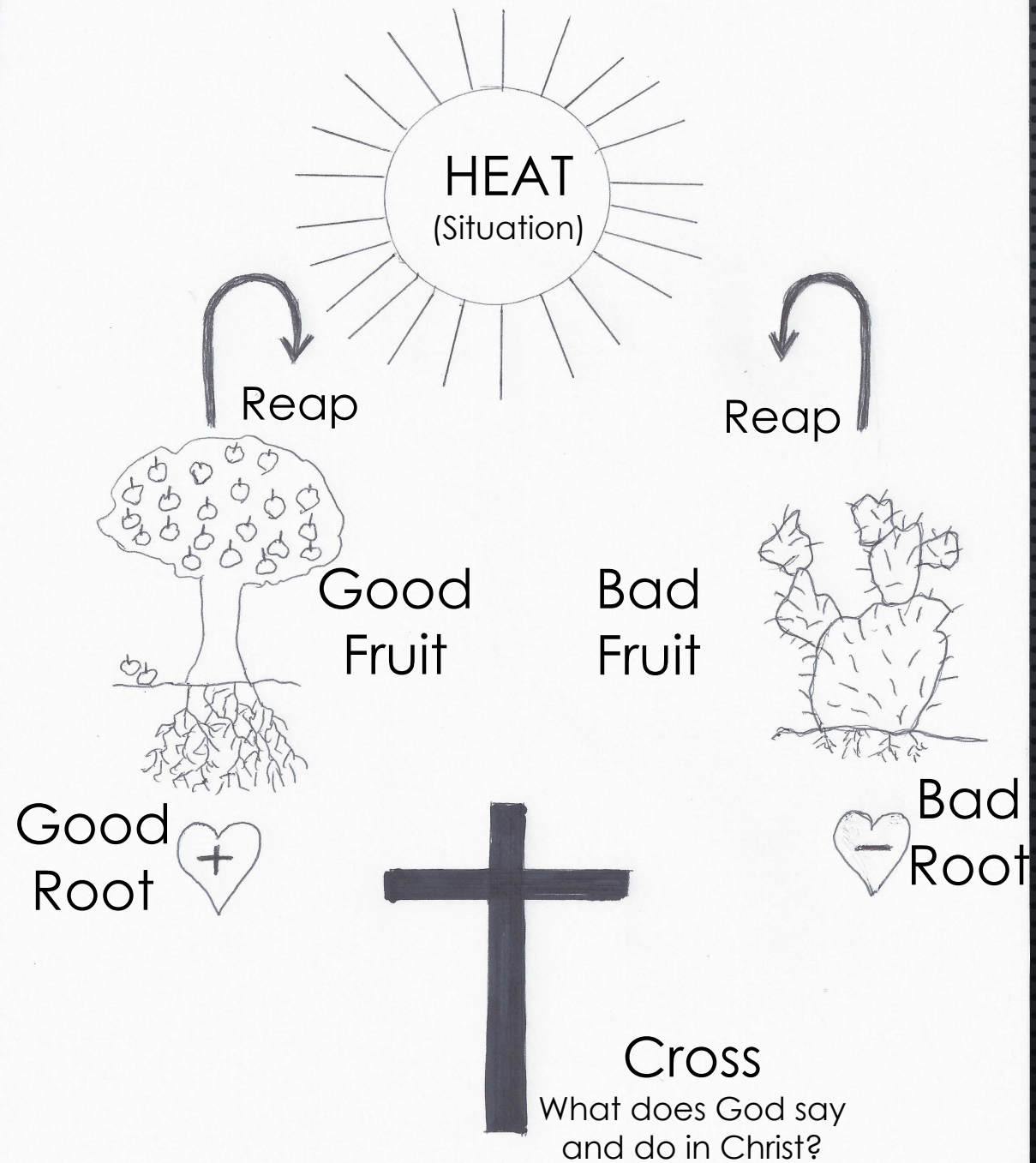
8 He is like a tree planted by water,
that sends out its roots by the stream,
and does not fear when heat comes,
for its leaves remain green,
and is not anxious in the year of drought,
for it does not cease to bear fruit.”

9 The heart is deceitful above all things,
and desperately sick; who can understand it?



2 Corinthians 1:3-5

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ’s sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.”



“ . . . The tendency within evangelicalism has often been to emphasize the product rather than the process – doing rather than being, and activity rather than character growth and spiritual development.”¹

¹Marny Köstenberger, Sanctification: As Set Apart and Growing In Christ, p.1

Short Studies in
BIBLICAL THEOLOGY



SANCTIFICATION

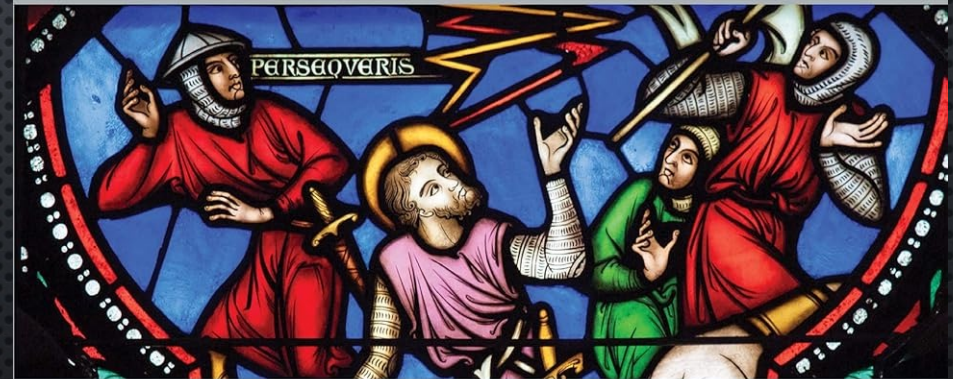
AS SET APART AND GROWING IN CHRIST

MARNY KÖSTENBERGER

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A biblical theology of
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J. Gary Millar

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BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

A CANONICAL
THEMATIC
& ETHICAL
APPROACH

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Q&A
and
THANKS



Spiritual persons are those in whom the Spirit has really become a fundamental power of life and who have “the mind of Christ” (2:16). As σάρκινοι (*sarkinoi*, fleshly), they are controlled by natural, human impulses rather than the Spirit. Paul does not use the term ψυχικός (*psychikos*) from 2:14, because that describes the natural person completely devoid of the Spirit.

¹David E. Garland, 1 Corinthians, Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2003), 106.