

Spiritual Growth - Sanctification

Wiersbe, W. W. (1997). *Wiersbe's expository outlines on the New Testament* (p 258). Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books.

:: Attitudes For Sanctification

Sanctification begins with regeneration, the implanting of spiritual life in a believer (Jn 3:3). From that starting point sanctification is God's progressively separating a believer from sin to Himself and transforming his total life experience toward holiness and purity. The process of sanctification for a believer never ends while he is on earth in his mortal body. It is consummated in glorification when that believer through death and resurrection or through the Rapture stands in the presence of God "conformed to the likeness of His Son" (Ro. 8:29). A believer's identification with Jesus Christ by faith is both the ground and the goal of sanctification.

Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures* (V 2, p 462). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

:: Core Values of Christos Community

As a community of believers, there are certain things that we should not change, no matter what the circumstances, when the time comes to implement our ministries.

Those are our Core Values; they are the very foundation of everything we do. And they are:

1. **Grace**
2. **Community**
3. **Gospel**
4. **Lordship of Christ**
5. **Spiritual Growth**

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:: How to use this study guide

Read each summary, noting the parts you find interesting, or challenging. Read in your Bible all the references you find in this guide, and if you have a study Bible, follow the cross-references provided for the passage you are reading.

Take your time, and use each summary as a launching pad for prayer and meditation.

:: Christian Qualities

Christian growth (2 Pet 1:5-7) results in spiritual effectiveness and productivity. The word **possess/supplement** (*hyparchōnta*, lit. "possessing") emphasizes that these spiritual qualities "belong to" Christians. However, Christians are to do more than merely possess these virtues. Effective and produc-

tive spirituality comes as **these qualities** are held in **increasing measure**. There is to be a growth in grace. A believer who does not progress in these seven areas is **ineffective** (*argous*, "idle" or "useless") **and unproductive** (lit., "unfruitful") **in his knowledge** (*epignōsin*, "full personal knowledge"; cf. vv. 2-3; 2:20) **of our Lord Jesus Christ**. Unfortunately many Christians know the Lord in salvation but lack the "fruit" of the Spirit and are not advancing spiritually. They remain "infants in Christ" (1 Cor. 3:1), still in need of spiritual "milk" (Heb. 5:12-13). But as Peter urged, believers should "grow in the grace and knowledge (*gnōsei*) of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18).

Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures* (V 2, p 866). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

:: Challenge to Press into the Full Implications of Their Inheritance

2 Peter 1:5 | For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge,

Peter urges these young believers to move on from step to step in divine grace. He tells them to bring to bear on their walk in grace all eagerness.

Add to your faith virtue. “In your faith provide an ample supply of basic (Christian) excellence.” This excellence is the quality of one who diligently practices the basic rudiments and implications of his calling. To virtue, the Christians are urged to add **knowledge**. Here is growth in awareness through study and experience. Next comes **temperance** (self-control). This is the Spirit-aided discipline of the Christian soldier. Then **patience**, the quality of a veteran’s ability to see

beyond current pressures in view of known resources. In patience the Christian adds **godliness** (Gr., *eusebeia*), a spirit of reverence and deference to God in all matters. In reverence he adds **brotherly kindness** (Gr. *philadelphia*)

Pfeiffer, C. F., & Harrison, E. F. (1962). *The Wycliffe Bible commentary: New Testament* (2 Pe 1:5). Chicago: Moody Press.

:: Until the Day of Christ Jesus

Philippians 1:6 | 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.

Paul expressed the confidence that the growth would take place “until the day of Christ Jesus.” He glanced backward to their salvation and forward to the completion of their character when the Lord returns. No doubt the reference to the “day of Christ Jesus” is the “day of the Lord” so common in the Old Testament (Joel 2:1; Amos

5:20). The question is why the end times were included at this point. Although Paul could have thought in terms of the imminent coming of the Lord, he also was more aware of a delay than earlier in his ministry. Paul’s use of the phrase “until the day” actually called to mind the consummation of the present age. It was Paul’s way of making two emphases: sanctification was an ongoing process and the process would continue to the end of the age. At that time the believers would be complete in character. They needed not to fear the judgment which characterized that day.

Melick, R. R. (2001). Vol. 32: *Philippians, Colossians, Philemon* (electronic ed.). Logos Library System; The New American Commentary (p 59). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

:: God's Work of Salvation

Salvation is the good work God does in us when we trust His Son. In Philippians 2:12–13 we are told that God continues to work in us through His Spirit.

In other words, salvation includes a threefold work:

- the work God does *for* us—salvation;
- the work God does *in* us—sanctification;
- the work God does *through* us—service.

Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *The Bible exposition commentary* (Php 1:3). Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books.

:: Sanctification

The key thought here is sanctification, that is, the disciples’ relationship to the world. Jesus said, “I have given them Your word” (Jn 17:14, NKJV), and in v. 17 He states that we are sanctified—set apart for God—through the Word. Sanctification does not mean sinless perfection, otherwise Christ could never say, “I sanctify Myself” (v. 19). A sanctified Christian is someone who is daily growing in the Word and as a result is separated more and more from the world unto the Father.