

Soteriowhat?

Taken from Wayne Grudem's Systematic Theology, Chapter 38: Sanctification (Growth in Likeness to Christ) and Chapter 40: Perseverance of the Saints (Remaining a Christian)

Sanctification (Growth in Likeness to Christ)

How do we grow in Christian maturity? What are the blessings of Christian growth?

Grudem: Sanctification is a progressive work of God and man that makes us more and more free from sin and like Christ in our actual lives.

B. Three Stages of Sanctification

1. Sanctification Has a Definite **Beginning** at Regeneration (**Titus 3:5; 1 John 3:4–10; Romans 6:12–19**)
2. Sanctification **Increases** Throughout Life (**Romans 6:19; 2 Corinthians 3:12–18**)
3. Sanctification Is Completed At **Death** (for Our Souls) and When the Lord **Returns** (for Our Bodies) (**Philippians 3:20–21; Revelation 21:27**)
4. Sanctification Is **Never** Completed in This Life (**1 John 1:8**)

C. God and Man **Cooperate** in Sanctification

1. God's Role in Sanctification
God **does** the sanctifying (**1 Thessalonians 5:23a; Philippians 2:12–13; 1 Corinthians 1:30–31**)
2. Our Role in Sanctification (**Romans 6:19; 8:13; 12:1; Galatians 5:19–23**)

D. Sanctification Affects the **Whole** Person (**Colossians 3:8–10; Romans 12:2**)

E. **Motives** for Obedience to God in the Christian Life (**1 John 5:3; 2 Timothy 2:20–21**)

F. The Beauty and **Joy** of Sanctification (**Hebrews 12:1–2**)

Scripture Memory Passage

Romans 6:11–14

The Perseverance of the Saints (Remaining a Christian)

Can true Christians lose their salvation? How can we know if we are truly born again?

Grudem: The perseverance of the saints means that all those who are truly born again will be kept by God's power and will persevere as Christians until the **end** of their lives, and that only those who persevere until the **end** have been truly born again.

A. All Who Are Truly Born Again **Will Persevere to the End (John 6:38–40; John 10:27–29; Romans 8:1, 30; 1 Peter 1:3–5)**

B. Only Those Who Persevere to the **End Have Been Truly Born Again (Matthew 10:22; Colossians 1:21–23)**

C. Those Who Finally Fall Away May Give **Many External Signs of Conversion (Galatians 2:4–5; Matthew 7:21–23; Mark 4:5–6, 16–17; 1 John 2:19)**

D. What Can Give a Believer Genuine Assurance?

Ask yourself these questions:

1. Do I Have a **Present** Trust in Christ for Salvation? (**Hebrews 6:11–12; John 3:16**)
2. Is There Evidence of a Regenerating Work of the Holy Spirit in **My** Heart? (**1 John 4:13; Galatians 5:22–23, 1 John 4:6; 1 John 3:14**)
3. Do I See a Long-Term Pattern of **Growth** in My Christian Life? (**2 Peter 1:5–11**)

So, what is the answer for someone who has never been saved? **Grudem:** You must **repent** of your sins and **trust** in Christ for your salvation.

Scripture Memory Passage

John 10:27–28

Sanctification

E. Motives for Obedience to God in the Christian Life

- (1) It is true that a desire to please God and express our love to him is a very important motive for obeying him. John 14:15, 21; 1 John 5:3
- (2) The need to keep a clear conscience before God. Romans 13:5; 1 Timothy 1:5, 19; 2 Timothy 1:3; 1 Peter 3:16
- (3) The desire to be a “vessel for noble use” and have increased effectiveness in the work of the kingdom. 2 Timothy 2:20–21
- (4) The desire to see unbelievers come to Christ through observing our lives. 1 Peter 3:1–2, 15–16
- (5) The desire to receive present blessings from God on our lives and ministries. 1 Peter 3:9–12
- (6) The desire to avoid God’s displeasure and discipline on our lives (sometimes called “the fear of God”). Acts 5:11; 9:31; 2 Corinthians 5:11; 7:1; Ephesians 4:30; Philippians 2:12; 1 Timothy 5:20; Hebrews 12:3–11; 1 Peter 1:17; 2:17; Romans 3:18
- (7) The desire to seek greater heavenly reward. Matthew 6:19–21; Luke 19:17–19; 1 Corinthians 3:12–15; 2 Corinthians 5:9–10
- (8) The desire for a deeper walk with God. Matthew 5:8; John 14:21; 1 John 1:6; 3:21–22; Psalm 66:18; Isaiah 59:2
- (9) The desire that angels would glorify God for our obedience. 1 Timothy 5:21; 1 Peter 1:12
- (10) The desire for peace (Philippians 4:9) and joy (Hebrews 12:1–2) in our lives
- (11) The desire to do what God commands, simply because his commands are right, and we delight in doing what is right. Philippians 4:8; Psalm 40:8