

# OpenTheo

## Christology: Christ, Our Sanctification

July 4, 2021



### For The King - Rocky Ramsey

Today, Bryce and I walk through how Jesus is our very sanctification, the reason, origin, source, fuel, by which we are sanctified in this life. All lofty and high theological thoughts of God should always trickle down into our hearts that we may fan aflame our affection for Christ. Thus, Bryce and I end this series with sanctification which is the application of Christology. Thanks for Listening!

Key Texts: Jeremiah 31:31-34, Romans 8, 2 Corinthians 3:17-18, Ephesians 2:8-10, Hebrews 2:10-11; 10:10; 12:1-2,4,14; 13:12

Resources:

<https://www.ligonier.org/blog/does-christology-matter/>

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/christology/>

My guest joining me this week on the Sunday series is my brother Bryce. Bryce is getting his undergraduate degree in philosophy and hopes to get his MDiv. from a seminary after he completes his undergrad. He hopes to be a pastor shepherding Gods people one day.

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## Transcript

(music) Hello, For The King listeners. It. I thought you were going to keep trying to copy me.

No, I'm not going to show my old. Well, good afternoon, good morning, good evening. Just whenever you're listening to this thing.

Good night. It might even be good night. You might be listening to it as you fall asleep.

That would be quite the dedication. Honestly, don't do that. You probably won't even understand what we're saying.

You'll probably miss a lot of it if you fall asleep. You're going to want to stay up for this one, folks. A little sleep and a little slumber, a little folding of the hands.

The calamity. That man comes to poverty. Calamity will come upon you.

So don't fall asleep while listening to this. Be a wise man and be awake, alert, sober-minded. It's visual.

We're children of the light, children of the day. We're not children of the night. Therefore, we don't sleep.

Yeah, sleeping is a sin. Sleeping is sinful. What if we had some crazy wacky view like that? We don't think that, folks.

That's a lie. Get some sleep. 100%.

Okay, so what are we talking about today? What are we doing today? What is the point of today? Today is the day for salvation as long as it is called today. Today is the day for salvation. So if you're listening and you don't know who Jesus Christ is, His podcast is for the King.

Turn to the King, repent, serve the King, bend the knee to the King, and give Him your very life. We will talk about today, Jesus, as our source of sanctification. That while we are also sanctified in the moment, which is maybe more of a justification thought, we're sanctified, we're made holy in the moment that we believe in Christ.

And if you did that just a second ago when I pleaded with you, and you are very well, my friend, justified before Christ. But we also have this life to live after we're justified. And there is still... Oh yeah, that might be kind of loud actually.

There is still... Sorry if that fan was very loud and you guys could hear that. There's still a life to be lived, a Christian life to be lived. And what happens to that Christian life is we are disciplined and prodded along by our Father.

We are sanctified because Jesus is our friend, our bigger brother, our co-heir, co-conqueror. He is our King. And by virtue of being in His courts, He will not have weak soldiers.

He will not have weak subjects. He will discipline and sanctify them throughout their entire lives. And today we want to hit on that as we kind of wrap up this Christology section.

I think this would be the last episode. This is the last big part of Jesus's office to us. We talk about Him as Prophet, Priest and King.

But He's also the mediator, the one that stands before the Father and is our source because of this sacrifice, because of what He did for us, the sacrifice He offered now we are sanctified in Him through His blood. So we're going to hit on that today kind of as this final wrapping up point. So if you're new to the podcast, subscribe, like it, share it, anything like that.

And yeah, just enjoy this episode. So we're going to get into it now. Jesus as our source of sanctification.

Yeah. And there's many other things that we could go through in regards to the person of Christ and His work. But we're not going to go through in a huge, systematic way in a very, very, very long series and everything that Christ did.

So this is just a brief synapses, essentially of the workings of Christ. Synapses. What I say.

Synapses. I said synapses. I feel like that's something in your brain when neurons connect to synapses.

That's my stupid psychology class getting to. The neurological synapses or whatever. Yeah.

Yeah. So like Ricky said, we're going to be talking about Christ as our foundation, our source, our captain of us being sanctified. So first off, I guess we can go through what sanctification actually means.

Like literally the word means, the Greek word is hagios. That's a case ending. I don't know the specific derivative, but, or the most basic form of it.

But it just means to be made holy. But the way that we would distinguish it in the Bible is that it is a process. There's a process that we go through of sanctification, which is where we most naturally mean the term, but you are made holy in Christ.

Christ, which this is different from justification, which we've kind of talked about before briefly that justification you're declared right before God. Sanctification is actually being made holy in the process of becoming more holy. Conformed in the image of Christ.

Yeah, exactly. So Christ is the foundation of it for a number of reasons. And we kind of want to ground this from the relation of the old covenant into the new.

So first off, if you guys are having your Bible, open it up to Jeremiah chapter 31 and verse 31. And we're going to read this section, which is just highlighting and foreshadowing from the Old Testament into the new, what this new Messiah is coming to

do and the new covenant that he was going to bring. So it says this.

"Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. Not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. My covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord.

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days declares the Lord. I will put my law within them and I will write it on their hearts and I will be their God and they shall be my people and no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother saying, 'Know the Lord, for they shall all know me.' From the least of them to the greatest declares the Lord." So the new covenant comes and is bought by the blood of Christ. You see every covenant in the Old Testament being acquired through blood.

And that's the beginning of it. So Jesus says when he gathered in the upper room with his disciples and he had the wine and he had the bread and he said, "With the wine this is my blood which I pour out for you and with the bread this is my body." So the installment of the new covenant comes at the expense of Christ's own blood. And the way it describes the new covenant is actually really beautiful because you see something completely radical happening here and that the law of God is going to be written in their hearts.

So you kind of see a, what something is being distinguished in this passage is that these people continuously break his covenant but God is going to cause them to walk in his statutes. And another parallel passage to this is Ezekiel chapter 36 which highlights to Stephen still that he will cause his people to walk in his statutes. So he will help them to stay in the covenant.

And so fast forwarding into the New Testament, one of the major books that highlights from the Old Testament into the new is the book of Hebrews. It was written to the Hebrews, to Jewish people to help them to see from Paul. Yeah, Hebrews written by Paul.

To help these Hebrews see how this new covenant has been a drastic change from the Old. So we're not going to go over this whole book obviously but we're going to highlight some specific portions in the book of Hebrews that's a common theme that we'll see throughout it. So in Hebrews chapter 2 verse 10 it says, "For it was fitting that he for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering." And this is talking about Jesus.

Jesus being the founder of our salvation and he suffered on the cross. And it continues on verse 11, "For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source." That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers. So that one source ultimately derives from God, God the Father as he sent his son and the suffering that paid away.

And Jesus gathers us together in himself and we follow along in the suit of the way that he has suffered so that we would be more sanctified. So we all have one source. Okay, first off what this verse isn't teaching is that Jesus is sinful and he needed to be sanctified.

Jesus was sanctified but entirely. We are sanctified, not entirely. Jesus is without sin, we are with sin but nonetheless we still walk in that very same image.

And that kind of reminds us and fast forwards us to Hebrews chapter 12 and verse 1 and to verse 2 it says, "Therefore since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight of sin which clings so closely and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him he endured the cross despising the shame and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." So again we kind of see this imagery of struggling, struggling for sanctification and how that brings a more holy life. And verse 4 it says, "In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood." And that's exactly what Christ did. He resisted sin and even when you see in the Garden of Gethsemane he sweated droplets of blood.

Yeah, we also have in verse 14, "Strive for peace with everyone and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord." And striving is a word of struggle, toil, working out your salvation with fear and trembling. Right. The reason Jesus is the founder of that is because he's the one who paved the way.

Yeah. Right. He's the firstfruits of all these things for us because he's the one who suffered.

He's the one who brings the new covenant to us because we would have absolutely nothing apart from the blood of Christ. Yeah. So that is a very consistent theme.

And let's back up just a tad bit to chapter 10. Chapter 10, verse 10, this is talking about how God takes no pleasure in the sacrifices of bulls and of goats and all these different things. What he does take pleasure in is the once and for all sacrifice of his son.

So this is what he says in chapter 10, verse 10, "And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once and for all." So here's something I only want to highlight. Sanctification is something that you cooperate with God and you are required to act like Rocky read in chapter 12, verse 14. There's you are, we are to strive for holiness.

So we are required to act, but even still we have to maintain at the very exact same time that it is Christ Jesus who both works in us to will and to work for his good pleasure. And we have to maintain both of these things at once. We can't think that we have done any good apart from the workings of Christ because he's the one who's the foundation of it.

You can't go get some wood and make a table and say, "Look, I created this because it was all based upon the creation that God had already set." You just made it. You just formed something that was already there and making it something. So that's why it says in chapter 10 that Jesus is the founder of our faith and perfecter of our faith.

And we follow upon the workings of Christ, which is why we look to him alone, not only for our salvation, but also for our sanctification to continue to walk in holiness and that we would be, like it says in Romans chapter 8, conformed to his image. Yeah. And I guess another big point to draw out here is some Christians will talk about, "Oh, I prayed a prayer.

I trusted in Jesus. Then I'm okay." But sanctification is every single day you wake up and you carry your cross. Jesus says you pick up your cross daily.

Every day we kind of in an odd way replay the very first day we came to know Christ. We wake up every day and we say, "I'm going to go and follow Jesus today. I'm going to be sanctified today.

I'm going to be more conformed to the image of Christ today than I was the day before." It's an ongoing thing. The Christian life is not you pray a prayer once. This is a continual looking to Jesus over and over and over again.

He's the author, the founder. Yes, that first moment is very spectacular. It's going to be your spiritual high.

It's going to be like, "Wow, look what God's doing in my life. Look how good God is and how evil I am." But guess what? He's also the perfecter of our faith, which means that we look to him continually as we are perfected throughout our life. Yeah.

And that's the beauty of what the new covenant brings is just going back to Jeremiah. It talks about the law being written on their hearts. And that's exactly what Jesus comes and does for us, right? Because the Holy Spirit is poured out to us.

And the reason it can be poured out is because of the blood of Christ cleansing us of our sins. And that's all by the working of the Spirit as he applies Christ's work to us. And it's by that very same Spirit, like it says in Romans chapter 8 verse 13, "If you live after the flesh, you will die.

But if by the Spirit you put the death that these in the body you shall live." And this is why it's an active endeavor. And that's one huge thing that just so many Christians get wrong is they just, like you said Rocky, they just think about the initial salvation and that's it. You know, but if the law has been written on your heart and you know what is right, if you've been translated from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of his beloved son, like it says in Colossians chapter 1, that means that you're in a kingdom, you're in a new kingdom and you're supposed to live in a kingdomly fashion.

That's the whole point of sanctification and it is our pure and utter joy to do like what John the Baptist said, to bear fruit in keeping with repentance. Repentance brings utter joy like David after he, you know, committed adultery with Bathsheba, sorry. He was in a place of utter turmoil and through repentance that restored his relationship with God.

It restored that connection, that communion with God, which is where we find ultimate joy and peace and comfort. And that's the beauty of the cross of Christ is that like it says in John chapter 1 that we had, actually this is John chapter 2, verse 1, we have an advocate before the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous one. That's the beauty of what it means to actually be found in Christ is that now we have the capacity to look towards him, not only for forgiveness of sins, but also that we would continue to walk in righteousness.

Yeah. And this like daily act of all this playing out, you know, we confess our sins to God daily. We confess the ones that we know.

And it's never ever, we're justified before Christ. You should never as a Christian conflate those two, sanctification with justification, that confessing, repenting, continuing to cling in faith to Christ. All these things are just sanctification, what happens, how sanctification is played out.

And you know, the reason this is important is because, you know, let's say a child is scorned and scolded by their parent for something bad they do, so they're sent to the room and they say, "Think about what you did and then come back and join the family for dinner." And the child could continue to sulk and sulk and sit there and be angry and never realize what they did, confess it, ask for forgiveness, repent, turn away from it, and then come back and be restored to the family. But the son is that never at any point during this whole process of basically struggling against and dwelling sin is the son is never cut off from family. The son's just in his room and he's, the father says, "You're grieving my spirit." Wait, this is how the analogy goes.

You're grieving my spirit, you're in the room, you're sulking. Repent, confess, turn back to me and come back into the family. Let's feast together.

Let's go back to having joy. Never at any point does the father ever say, "You're not my son anymore." The father says, "Go and think about what you did. Turn away from that and come back to us.

We want you to be a part of the family, but you need to realize what you did is wrong." And that's why in all of chapter 12 after some of the things Bryce said, it talks about God is like a father disappointing us. That's why I wanted to bring up that analogy. Yeah, exactly.

And that's how he brings us back into that. And it's more of like the fellowship has been

severed. Yeah, the fellowship, exactly, not salvation.

Yeah, not the salvation, not the adoption, right? They don't return the papers and say, "Go back to the nuns and take the kid back." But notary. Yeah, that's a really good point. And that's why we can look to Jesus as the author and perfecter.

That's why we can call him brother. He is our brother who we can go to in our time of need, right? Like that beautiful hymn, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." We are to be pitied when we don't come to him in prayer. Yeah, and there is a being.

Yeah, what a privilege it is. Exactly. Yeah.

And that's a... If you guys haven't heard that hymn, you should look it up. I'll put it up. Yeah, I'll put it in the show notes.

It's a really good hymn. Yeah. We have such a good friend in Jesus and even more than a friend, we have a brother in Christ.

He is our elder brother who helps spur us on. He's just like... He's what Cain should have been. Yeah, exactly.

Cain should have kept protection over his younger brother Abel, yet he didn't, right? But Jesus is the greater Cain. He didn't murder us, but he leads us onto righteousness and helps us... Exactly. ...to walk towards the Father.

Yeah. And we do that by the foundation of his blood. And that's why we need to be like a wise man that builds our house on that foundation.

Jesus Christ is the rock, and we need not be crushed under him, but we need to be exalted on him. Exactly. Because he is high and lifted up.

He is exalted. And we find no exaltation in ourself, but only in Christ. And that's why we need to worship him.

Because worship... You become like what you worship. It's just like the Psalm that says... Like even in Isaiah when it talks about idols, though they have mouths who do not speak, though they have ears they do not hear, those who worship them become like them. And the reality of that is that what you worship is what you imitate.

It's what you are like. It's just... Like I remember growing up with my brother Rocky, I would try to imitate specific things that he did just because I enjoyed him. But in a sense I was kind of worshipping him with specific things that he did.

And it made me become like him. Like me and Rocky... We have to laugh as they go through. We laugh similarly.



We joke very... We have a very specific humor. Exactly. That not a lot of other people find funny, but we do.

I know, yeah. Exactly. So we need to worship Christ because he is the image of the invisible God.

The reason that the Father... The reason that it's prohibited to make a carved image of anything in heaven above, on earth beneath or in the sea, the reason we shouldn't bow down and worship it is because God the Father has set aside for himself his image and his son to be worshiped. And when we worship him we become like him. So that is why it is an utter sin to worship idols.

Whether they're made by hands or our minds. Because when we worship that we become like that. And anything that's less than God is not what we're striving for.

I'm not meaning we're striving for Godhood. All I'm saying is that we need to strive to God, who he is. Exactly.

Be holy as your heavenly Father is holy. Made for him. Exactly.

Yeah and I forget what the verse is at, but as we behold God's glory we're transformed from one degree of glory to the next. So there is an element of worship, you're gaze, fear of the Lord, worship, faith. All of this is there's an object to it.

And all of these things are, you're engaged on the object. You're looking at it, you're looking to it, you're learning from it. All that.

That's why Bryce and I were around each other a lot so we became like each other. We're similar to each other. We're similar to our parents.

Whoever you're around you become like. So what is worship? Looking to your Father, realizing how great he is and giving him due honor and glory. And as we behold that glory, we'll be transformed from one degree of glory to the next to be like him.

We will never be God. We're created beings. We can never ever even come close to being God.

But we can become like him in terms of the standard. We share in his glory because he gives that to us. And what is that Psalm 8? Why, O Lord are you mindful of us that you would make us a little lower than you made us a little lower than you would, but you're mindful of us you give us glory.

And that's the beauty of the new man that was meant for Adam in Psalm chapter 8. But Christ being the new Adam, the new man is now the founder of that. That we can now fulfill the dominion mandate in Genesis chapter 1. Now we can live up to our potential as beings made in the image of God because we failed utterly. But now Christ has

redeemed, he's regained the creation as it were for us to now go out and accomplish that task which he gave us.

And that's I actually just read something about a guy who said that Jesus fulfills it now we don't have to. And it's like, no, no, no, Jesus fulfills it that we may now do it. And I guess one passage I can go to to highlight something like that in Romans chapter 8. Oh yeah.

That's right. I mean, this is a really important passage and I think sometimes this is something that's very misunderstood. But I mean, super famous.

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are on Christ Jesus for the law of the spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. Okay, so again, this is talking about sanctification. We're not a part of the law of sin and death, but we've been set free for God has done what the law weakened by the flesh could not do by sending his own son and the likeness of sinful flesh.

And for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh. Here's the important piece in order. Okay, so here he's saying here's why.

Here's the foundation. Here's what has been brought about by him dying on the cross by condemning sin in the flesh and order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who walk not according to the flesh, but according to the spirit. Just catch that the law of God is now fulfilled in us.

So here's what this means. Christ being the foundation of it, he has utterly settled the law and the sense that he has entirely fulfilled it in terms of there is a work for salvation. It just so happens to be the only the only person who can fulfill that work is Jesus.

So Jesus fulfilled the entirety of the law by fulfilling all righteousness. I think that's Matthew 157 or 27 something like that. When he says the John the Baptist, let us fulfill all righteousness, but Jesus fulfills all righteousness.

He completely lived up to the perfect standard of God's law because he himself is God and he perfected it in the flesh. And now he fulfills the law in us. And here's the important piece as it says at the end, he fulfilled the law in us who walk not according to the flesh, but according to the spirit.

So now he just inserted the sanctification aspect. So we have salvation. We've been justified by Christ by his blood.

And now we walk not after the flesh any longer because we've been set free from the flesh. That's the whole point that Paul's making from Romans chapter six and two seven, how we still battle with the flesh, but we're free from it. We're free from it.

We've been spiritually alive, but yet we still are attached to the flesh. We fight it, but we're free from it in a way that now we can walk in righteousness because of the foundation of the blood of Christ. And that's why I get eight one.

He starts the way he does. Exactly. And then hopping on to Ephesians two, eight, nine, people always forget about verse 10.

This is a super famous passage, but people always leave out the last part. And it's a, for by grace you've been saved through faith and this is not of your own doing it. It's a gift of God, not a result of works, lest anyone should boast.

And then people stop there, but you have to keep reading every time after justification, after salvation, after the grace of God in our lives to cause us to be born again to a living hope. We always see sanctification coming right after it. And he says in verse 10, for we are his word.

For good workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works that we may walk in them. See Rocky got it. So he's fashioning us by the blood of Christ.

He renews us as a creation. Okay. Oh my goodness.

Second Corinthians 5 17. I don't know why I can't think of that verse for we are, we've been there for behold the oldest pass away. The new has come.

We are new creation in Christ. Yeah, I can't. I, as a result of the verse, if therefore if anyone's in Christ, he has a new creation, the oldest pass away, behold the new has come.

Yeah, exactly. So the new has come, but what comes with the new creation? Well, the creation acts. Whatever the new creation lives out and does.

Right. And that's why Jesus is the foundation of it because he's the required our salvation. Sorry.

He's acquired our salvation that we can, I know I always in story. You want to make up some weird words sometimes. I was trying to make them up.

It's just what I think is right. Yeah. He acquired our salvation and now he is fashioning us and sharpening us and honing us for men as men of God, for women as women of God.

Exactly. That now we can walk in good works. He's fulfilled the law in us.

Now we need to not walk after the flesh, but after the spirit. And that's the beauty. All due to the blood of Christ.

By the blood. One last verse I want to highlight. This is the end of the Hebrew.

You better hurry. Sorry. Okay.

She called you? No, no, she could. Okay. At any moment.

Rocky's fiance is going to call him and so. Any moment she's getting off work. So last verse Hebrews 13 verse 12 says, so Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood.

Again, this is the foundation. It's by the blood of Christ and now we are fashioned and shaped in his image. We've been saved and now as new creations we walk.

The creation that we were supposed to be has been regained. And now the reason we are more than conquerors through Christ Jesus our Lord is because God the father did not spare his son, but he sent his son in the world to die for sin. He condemned sin in the flesh.

Jesus became what he was not while never ceasing to be what he was. The God Christ, the second person of Trinity became flesh, the God-man. He bore our penalty on the cross.

Our debt was paid for as it was nailed to the cross of Christ as the father poured out his wrath on the son. And now Jesus died and he was laid in the grave. But the glory of the gospel is that the tomb is empty.

Christ overcame death. He raised himself up from the dead. He spoke to his apostles.

He was seen upon the world. 500 or so people saw him as witnesses and he ascended into heaven. He sat down at the right hand of the father after he made purification for sins.

And now he's ever there and he will come again to judge the living and the dead and anyone who believes in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ because there's no other name given under heaven by which men can be saved other than Jesus Christ. If you believe in him, you put your faith in Christ, you are a pen of your sins, you turn away from the way you once walked and you turn towards Christ, you look to him. Isaiah says, "Look ye to me all the ends of the earth and be ye saved." You will be saved if you look to Christ and you will have everlasting life and you will finally start to adore and treasure God's law.

And that's the beauty of the gospel is now we can walk in that. So we have a glorious savior who has redeemed us and now we can walk in righteousness. Okay, amen.

He is the source and foundation for all of our righteousness and because of that we can be sanctified and walk in newness of life all due to the blood of Christ who suffered outside of the gate that we might come into the city. Yeah, this is really again all of these really deep theological topics that Bryce and I will talk about on the podcast always has

some really simple easy to grasp application for our lives. Christology has what does it have for us what we just walked through.

This is the application of all these things that Jesus has pre incarnate incarnate prophet priest and king. So what is if that is who we serve if that is who we know Jesus to be what happens to us we're transformed from one degree boy to the next we are conformed to the image of Christ we walk into some life or new creations all this is logically follows and it's all based in the scriptures. We have read verses each time that display these things.

So thanks for listening guys to the for the king podcast. I've been really doctoring up and working on the website. Check it out for the king podcast calm if you have any inquiries or want to interact with the content at all or have a question about things Bryce and I talked about today.

Just shoot me an email at for the king podcast that gmail.com. Thanks so much for listening guys subscribe to it give it a rating give it a review share the podcast help it to grow whatever you feel inclined to do appreciate it. You can always pray for the podcast that's always welcomed as well and that'd be greatly appreciated as well. We pray for the podcast we want the gospel to go to the ends of the earth that is the goal of this podcast through technology we can reach a lot of people now.

So that is a big point of this podcast. So thanks for listening guys we did all do we do it all for through to buy the king for King Jesus. Thanks for listening guys.

Jesus is King. So a day of warrior. So.

For the king, for the king, for the king Jesus!