

CONCENTRATIO



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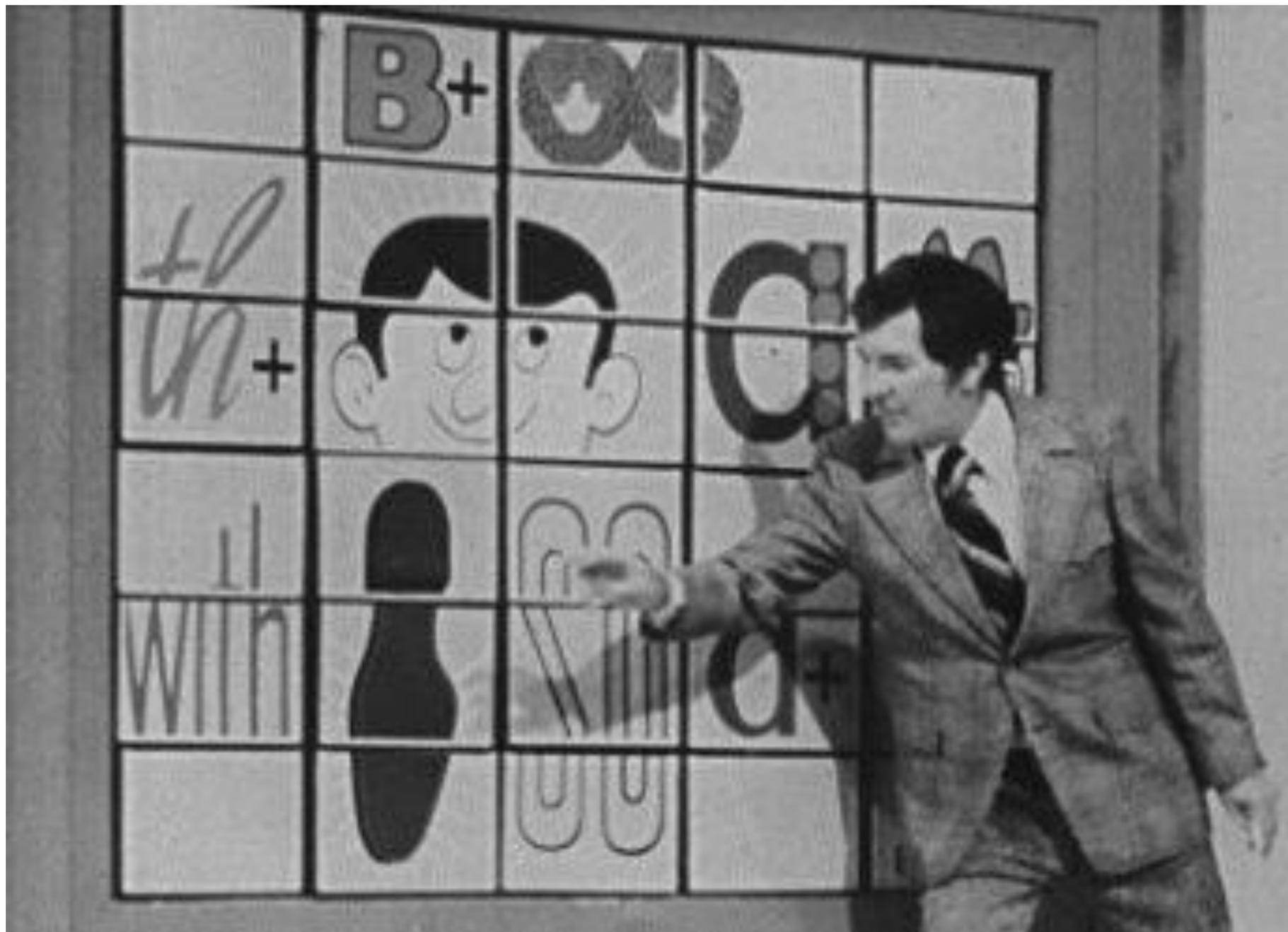
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- ^{NAS} **1 Thessalonians 4:1** Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that, as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you may excel still more. ² For you know what commandments we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. ³ For this is the will of God, your sanctification

Excel:

Perisseuo – to abound,
to be abundantly supplied,
to be over and above,
to be advanced

Excel

- **1 Thessalonians 3:9-10** How can we thank God for you in return for all the joy we experience because of you before our God, as we pray **earnestly (huperkeperissou)** night and day to see you face to face and to complete what is lacking in your faith?
- **1 Thessalonians 3:12** And may the Lord cause you to increase and **overflow (perisseuo)** with love for one another and for everyone, just as we also do for you.

Excel

- **1 Thessalonians 4:1** Finally then, brothers, we ask and encourage you in the Lord Jesus, that as you have received from us how you must walk and please God-- as you are doing-- **do so even more.(perisseuo)** ² For you know what commands we gave you through the Lord Jesus. ³ For this is God's will, your sanctification:
- **1 Thessalonians 4:9-10** About brotherly love: you don't need me to write you because you yourselves are taught by God to love one another. In fact, you are doing this toward all the brothers in the entire region of Macedonia. But we encourage you, brothers, **to do so even more, (perisseuo)**

- Until we have arrived in God's presence...
- ... we have not arrived in perfect, completed sanctification....
- which is why we must press on in sanctification.

There is always a danger of Christians thinking they have no further need to progress in sanctification; but this side of eternity, no believer has even come close to what God desires for him spiritually. Because it knew so much truth, even a church as strong as the one in Thessalonica might have been tempted to settle for the spiritual status quo. Thanks to Paul's solid instruction when he was with them, the saints were living exemplary lives and he had commended them for that. As a result, they might have thought their condition was ideal and in no need of improvement. But Paul knew they could do better and encouraged them accordingly. - John MacArthur (commentary on 1st and 2nd Thessalonians)

- **Philippians 3:12-14** ¹² Not that I have already reached the goal or am already fully mature, but I make every effort to take hold of it because I also have been taken hold of by Christ Jesus. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead, ¹⁴ I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God's heavenly call in Christ Jesus.

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16

HOLINESS HAGIOSUNE HAGIOSMOS	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16

The Holiness of God

- The defining characteristic of God is holiness.
- Holiness – set-apartness, other-ness
- Exodus 15:11: Who is like You among the gods, o Lord? Who is like You, majestic in holiness, awesome in praises, working wonders?
- He is absolutely separate from and exalted above all His creatures, and He is equally separate from all moral evil and sin. (Thiessen - Lectures)

The Holiness of God

- Holiness is that self-affirmed quality of God which embodies the totality of His **unique “God-ness”** and sets Him apart from all that is created and mundane (both in being and character.)
- God’s holiness **in being** is demonstrated by His majesty which is too great and too extreme to be expressed in words.
- God’s **holiness in character** finds expression in His purity which cannot be marred and is too important to ignore. -Roy Beacham

The Holiness of God

1. Because God is holy, He hates sin.
2. Because God is holy, there is a chasm between God and the sinner.
3. Because God is holy, man must approach God in holiness, and the only way to do that is through being made holy through the blood of Jesus.
4. Because God is holy, we must approach Him with reverence and awe and obedience.

HOLINESS HAGIOSUNE HAGIOSMOS	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16

HOLINESS	2	3	GODLINESS
5	BLAMELESSNESS	7	8
9	10	11	PLEASING GOD
13	TRANSFORMATION	15	16

HOLINESS	2	3	GODLINESS
5	BLAMELESSNESS	7	8
9	10	11	PLEASING GOD
13	TRANSFORMATION	15	16

How we are to BE

and how our character

is to be expressed

HOLINESS	2	PERFECTION	GODLINESS
SPIRITUAL GROWTH	BLAMELESSNESS	CHRIST-LIKENESS	8
FOLLOWING JESUS	10	CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF CHRIST	PLEASING GOD
SLAVE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS	TRANSFORMATION	15	16

HOLINESS	RIGHTEOUSNESS	PERFECTION	GODLINESS
SPIRITUAL GROWTH	BLAMELESSNESS	CHRIST-LIKENESS	WALKING WORTHY OF GOD
FOLLOWING JESUS	HONORING GOD	CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF CHRIST	PLEASING GOD
SLAVE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS	TRANSFORMATION	OBEYING GOD	FEARING GOD

- ...An exhortation to abound in holiness, to abound more and more in a holy walking, and to excel in those things that are good.
- Those who most excel others ...still...fall short of perfection. The very best of us should press on to what is ahead of us. We must not only persevere to the end, but we should grow better, and walk more evenly and closely with God. - Matthew Henry

SANCTIFICATION

(Growth in likeness to Christ)

-Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology

- Introduction: Sanctification is a progressive work that continues throughout our earthly lives
- It is a work in which GOD and man cooperate, each playing distinct roles.
- It is a progressive work of God and man that makes us more and more free from sin and like Christ in our actual lives

3 Stages of Sanctification

- Stage 1: Sanctification at Salvation
- Sanctification has a definite beginning and impact at regeneration.
- **1 Corinthians 6:11** you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.
- **Hebrews 10:10** we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once and for all.

3 Stages of Sanctification

- Stage 1: Sanctification at Salvation

- Sanctification has a definite beginning and impact at regeneration.

#1 – *we will never be able to say – I am completely free from sin* ^{ESV}

Galatians 5:17 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.

#2 – *we can never say – this sin has defeated me, I give up.* ^{NIV} **Romans**

6:14 For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

3 Stages of Sanctification

- Stage 1: Sanctification at Salvation
- Sanctification has a definite beginning and impact at regeneration.
- We have been sanctified!
- ^{CSB} **Hebrews 10:10** we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once and for all.

- Stage 2: Sanctification Continuing
- Sanctification continues and increases throughout life
- progressive sanctification.
- ^{ESV} **Romans 6:19** For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.
- **Ephesians 4:22-24** ²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

1 Thess 1:4 For we know, brothers loved by God, that He has chosen you

1 Thess 2:12 walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

1 Thess 3:13 so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father

1 Thess 4:1 we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to live and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. ² For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. ³ For this is the will of God, your sanctification

1 Thess 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. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

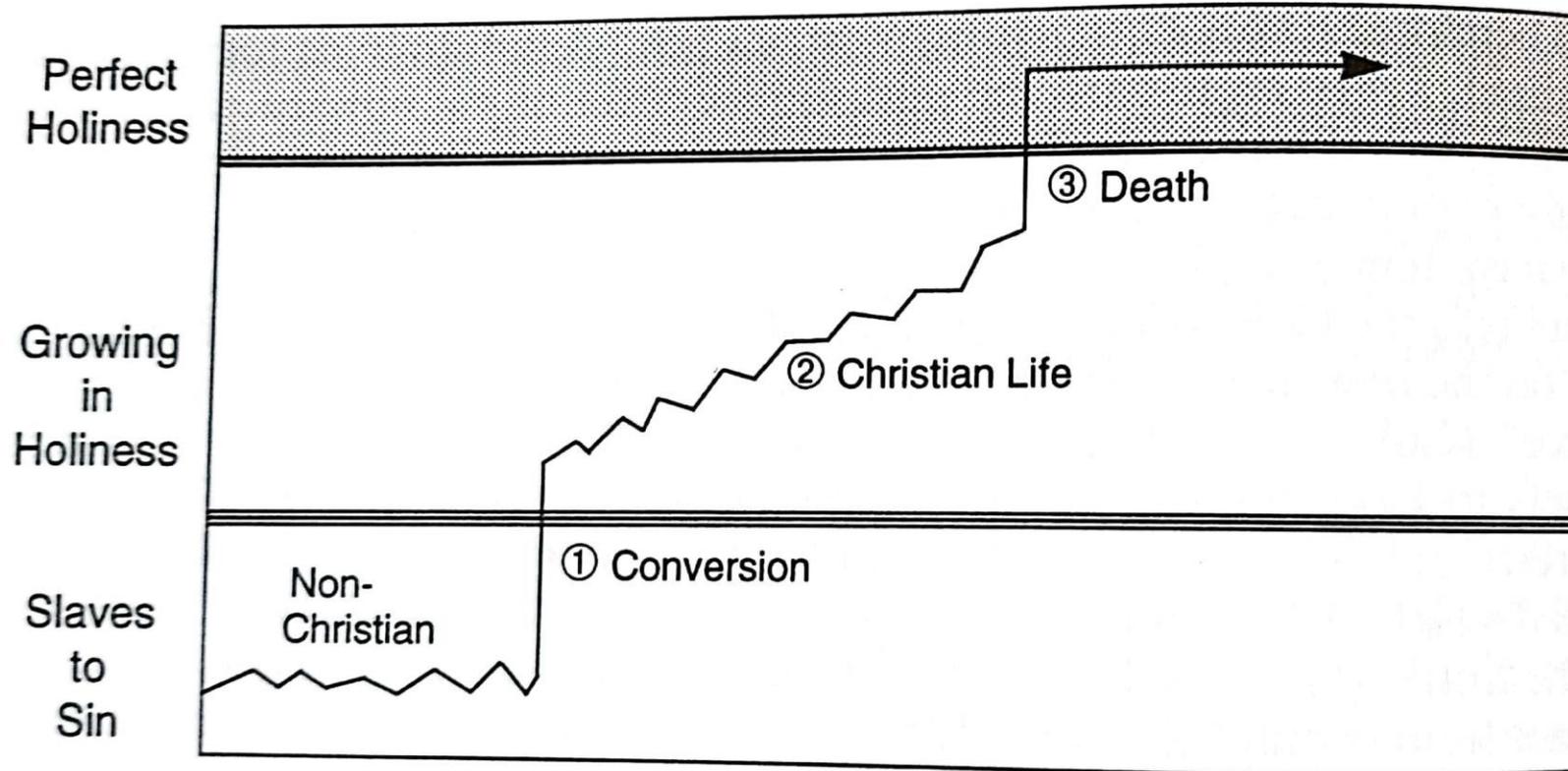
- Sanctification is the progressive work of God and man. We are to pursue the holiness of God in our lives, knowing that He is transforming us into the image of Christ.
- ^{CSB} **2 Corinthians 3:18** We all, with unveiled faces, are reflecting the glory of the Lord and are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory; this is from the Lord who is the Spirit.³

- Jonathan Edwards –
- RESOLVED: Never to give over, nor in the least to slacken my fight with my corruption, however unsuccessful I may be.
- We must participate in the pursuit of holiness as God transforms us into the image of His Holy Son.

- Stage 3: Sanctification **Completed**

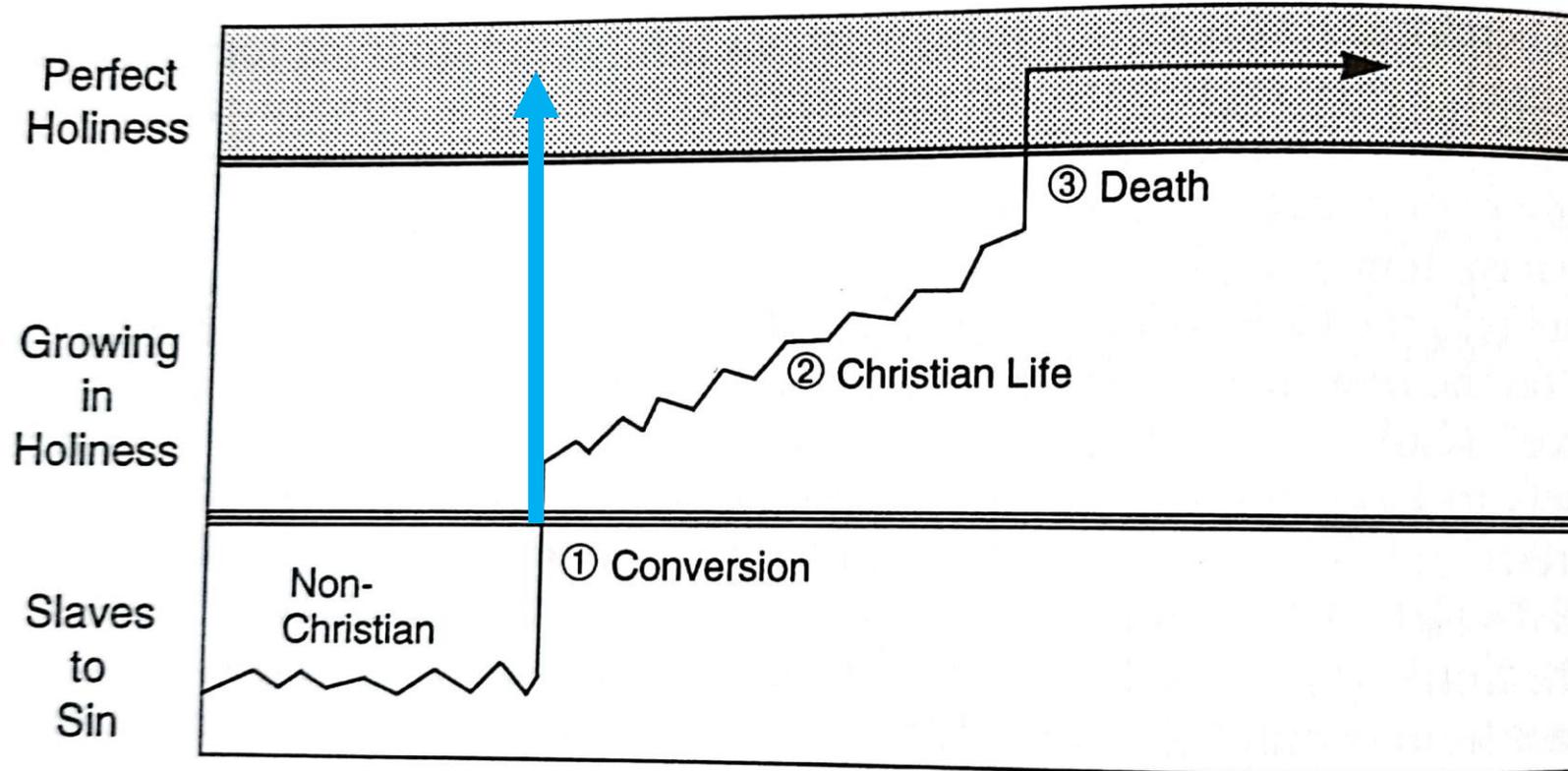
Perfect sanctificationGlorification!

- **1 John 3:2** Dear friends, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him as He is.
- **Philippians 3:21** He will transform the body of our humble condition into the likeness of His glorious body, by the power that enables Him to subject everything to Himself.

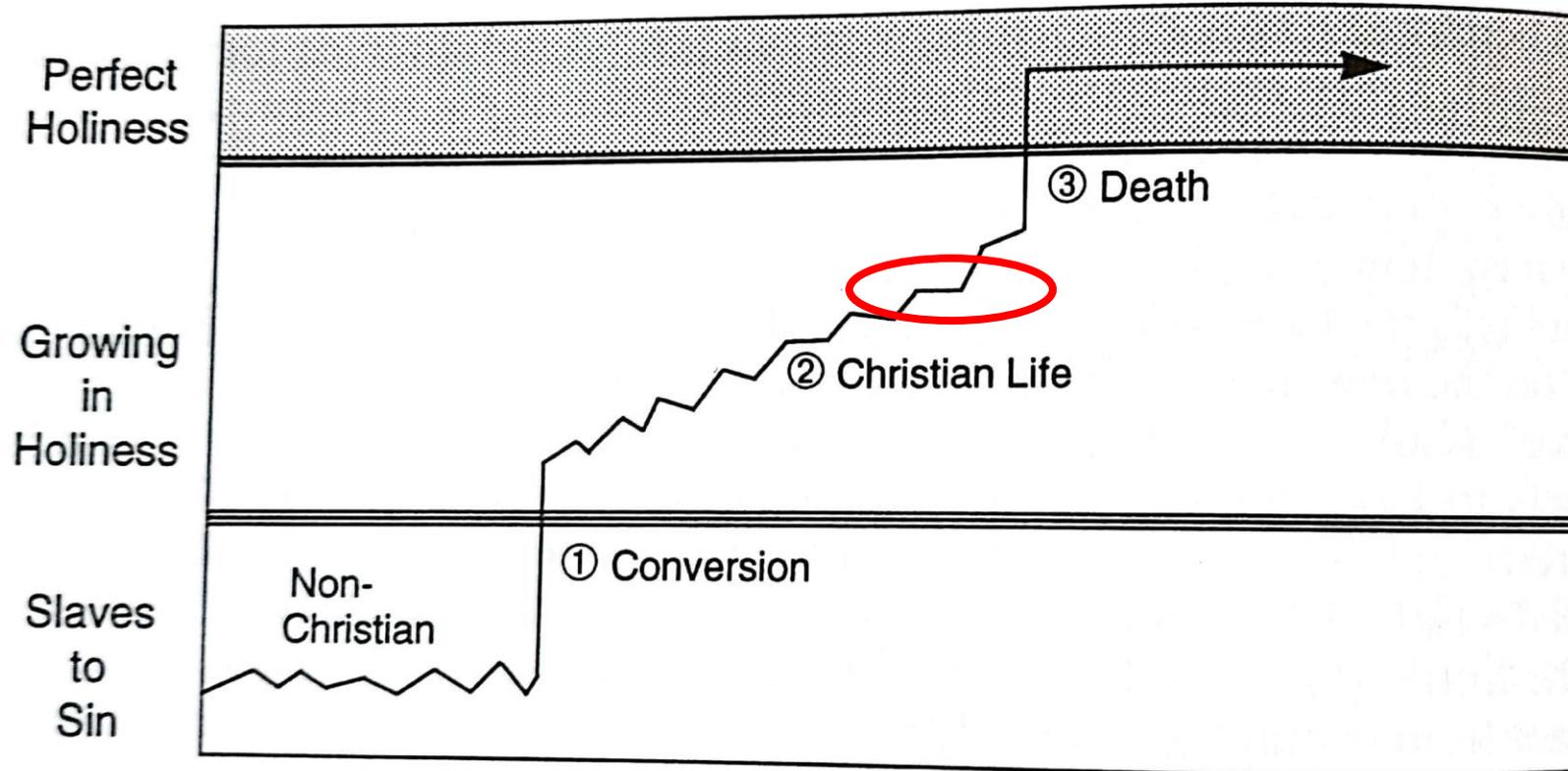


THE PROCESS OF SANCTIFICATION

Figure 38.1



THE PROCESS OF SANCTIFICATION
Figure 38.1



THE PROCESS OF SANCTIFICATION

Figure 38.1

HOLINESS	RIGHTEOUSNESS	PERFECTION	GODLINESS
SPIRITUAL GROWTH	BLAMELESSNESS	CHRISTIANITY	WALKING WORTHY OF GOD
FOLLOWING JESUS	CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF CHRIST	CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF CHRIST	PLEASING GOD
SLAVE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS	TRANSFORMATION	OBEYING GOD	FEARING GOD

Sanctified