

Four Big Words Describing A Big Process

- Introduction:
1. Our being united with Christ is the premise upon which God's saving work hinges.
 - a. (Romans 6:1-6).
 - b. (Ephesians 1:7).
 2. This union with Christ results in some rather dramatic changes.
 3. Four words that help us to understand the salvation process are: mortification, justification, sanctification, and glorification.
 4. Let's briefly examine the meaning of these words.

I. **Mortification**

- A. We are commanded to deal with our sins by putting them to death.
 1. (Colossians 3:5) ...put to death your members which are on the earth...
 2. (Romans 8:13) live by the Spirit & you'll put to death the deeds of the body.
 3. (Romans 6:3) A Christian is one who died to sin.
- B. Nothing is more characteristic of genuine Christians than putting our sinful ways to death.
- C. Mortification is an on going process (Romans 7:22-25).

II. **Justification**

- A. Justification is God's declaration upon us as "not guilty" (Romans 5:1).
- B. Being justified has been described as God looking upon me "just-as-if-I'd" never sinned.
- C. Justification does not describe a change in our behavior or desire as much as it describes the change in our standing before God.

III. **Sanctification**

- A. Because of our union with Christ, changes in our character occur as well.
- B. Sanctification is the word that describes our character change.
 1. It begins at the moment of our justification.
 2. It continues, in spite of our failings, until the end of our lives.
- C. The word sanctification has reference to being "separated to God."
- D. (1 Thessalonians 4:3-4) Our sanctification is the will of God.

IV. **Glorification**

- A. Every Christian is engaged in an ongoing battle with sin (Romans 7:15-25), and we should expect that our victories should outnumber our defeats.
- B. But mortification and sanctification will never be complete until Jesus returns.
- C. According to Hebrews 12:23 we will be made perfect in heaven.
- D. Meanwhile, we groan within ourselves, waiting for the redemption of our bodies (Romans 8:23).
- E. Glorification will be the instantaneous completion of our struggle with sin.

- Conclusion:
1. Remember that justification and glorification are God's works; sanctification

and mortification are what we need to be about.