

# BRINGING THE BIBLE TO LIFE

DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES



## THE DOCTRINE OF PROGRESSIVE SANCTIFICATION

Track I.6  
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# 1. What happens if a baby does not grow?

## a. Mental and motor skills:

- 1) Continuous Care
- 2) Limited Joy
- 3) Only indirect service

## b. Spiritually

- 1) All of the above
- 4) Spiritual defeat
- 5) Guilt
- 6) Hostile
- 7) Divisive
- 8) Depression
- 9) 2 Cor 5:10 (saved?)



<sup>10</sup> For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.



2. Why must believers grow?
  - a. Jesus grew. Luke 2:52
  - b. Commanded to grow. 2 Peter 3:18
  - c. To be Christ-like. Rom 8:28.29a
  - d. To avoid problems. Eph 4:13, Heb 5:12-14
  - e. Eph. 4:16 will not be fulfilled.
3. What is the doctrine of growth called?  
Progressive Sanctification.

#### Four Aspects of Sanctification

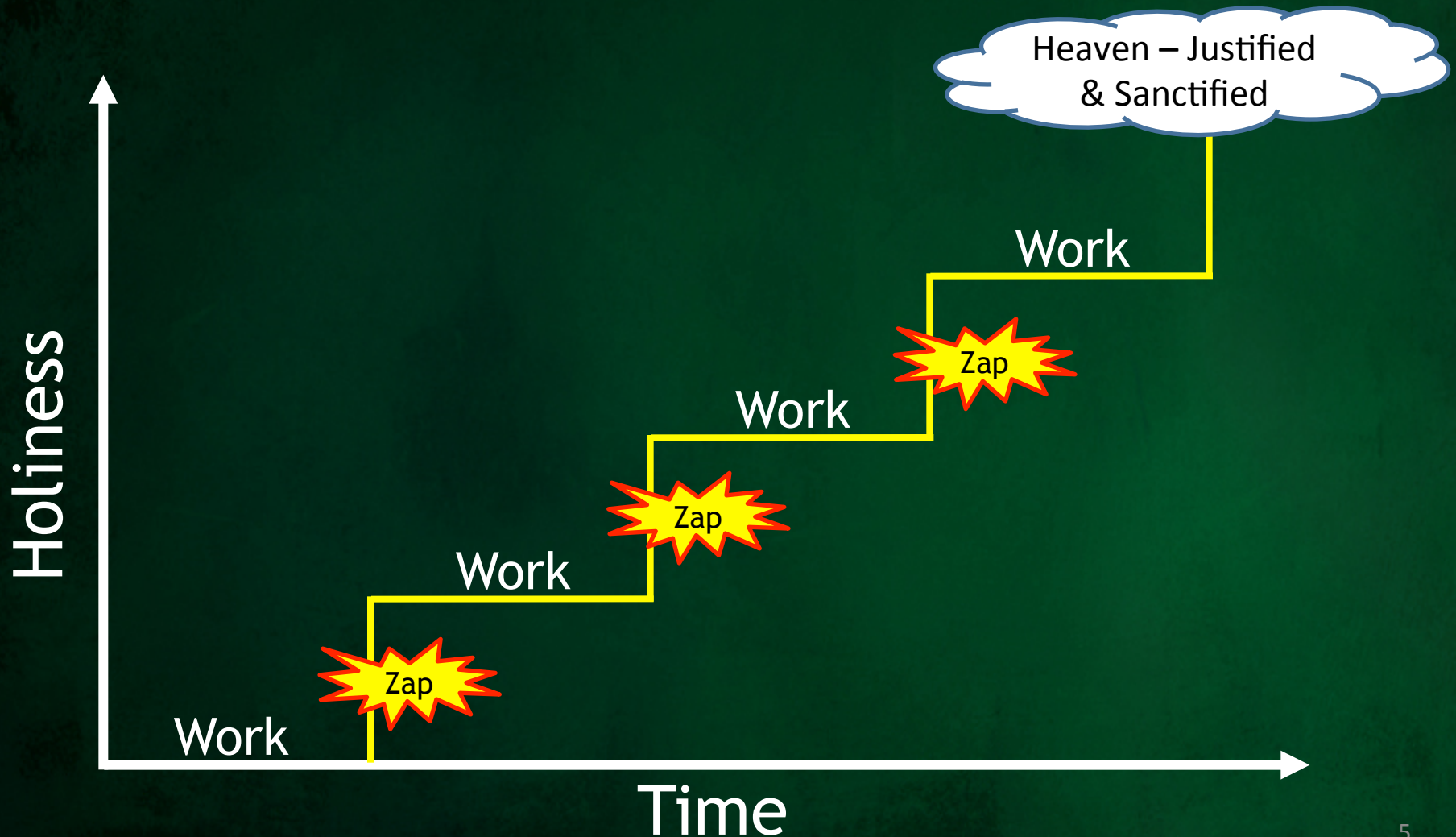
- Preparatory Sanctification
- Positional Sanctification
- Progressive Sanctification
- Prospective Sanctification

#### 4. Are we as careful to teach this doctrine of sanctification?

Unity, harmony, maturity, service, testimony, evangelism, and the entire ministry is affected.

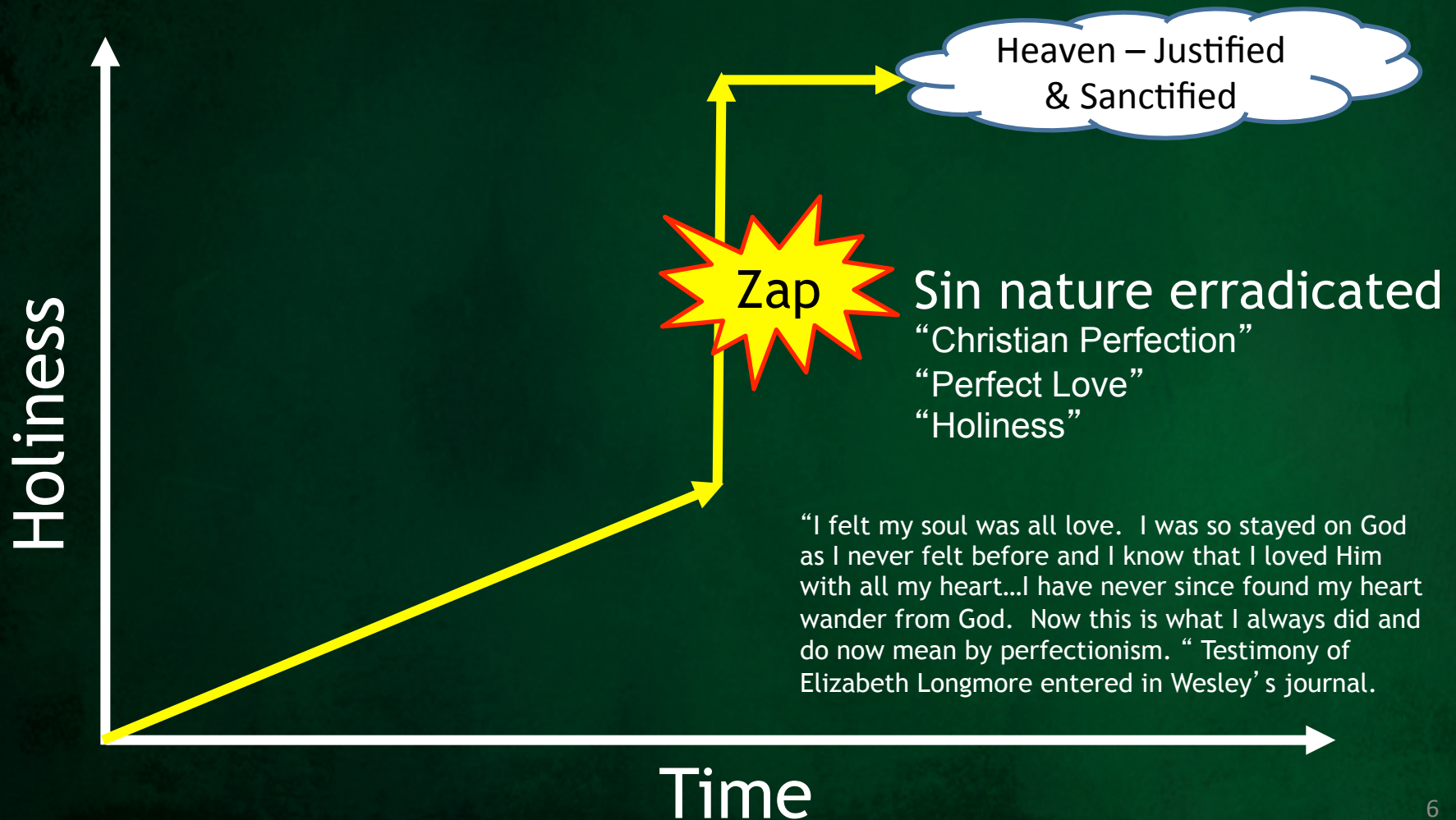
Although this is the doctrine of growth and is the basis for all the church's ministry to believers, in our day it is rarely mentioned, often ignored, seldom included in a church's constitution. We must choose between quick fixes, shortcuts, spiritual anemia, and the biblical theology of growth and maturing.

- I. Review of the doctrine in church history:
  - A. Roman View - legal aspects about salvation not accepted.

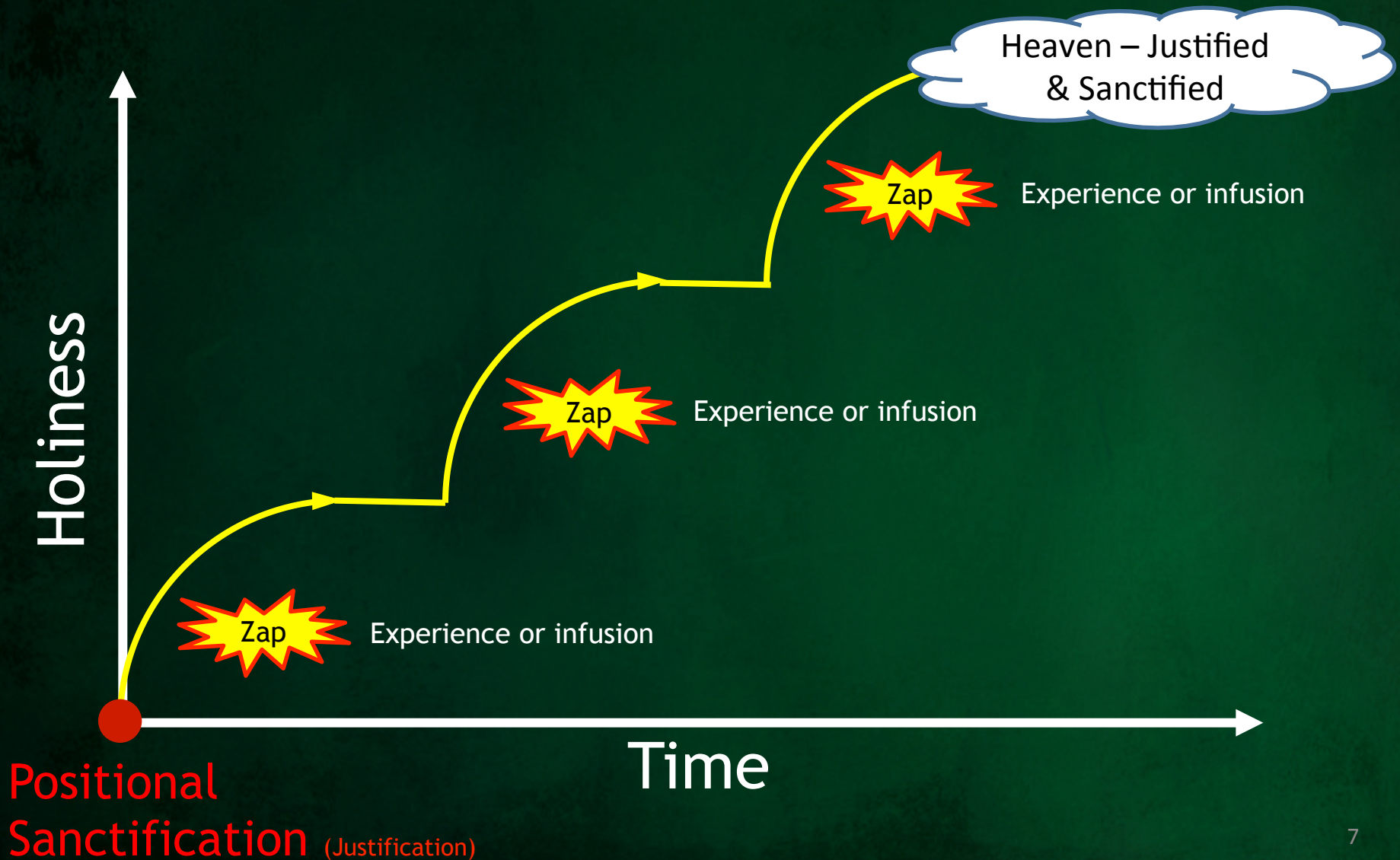




- B. Wesleyan perfectionism - Legal aspect accepted! Justification by faith!  
John Wesley formulated doctrine 1739-1760



## C. A popular modification - Justification and positional sanctification



## II. Five Characteristics of biblical sanctification that should be prevalent in the growth of the process:

### A. The Godhead is active.

- The testimony of the scriptures, the Spirit's sword:

1. The Father purges fruitful vine. John 15:2
2. The Son washes by the Water of the Word. Eph 5:26
3. The Spirit matures as we behold Christ's face in the mirror of His Word. 2Cor 3:18

- Systems that neglect the Godhead can only produce Pharisees if any change is brought about at all.



## B. Man must be active.

### - The testimony of the scripture, the Spirit's sword:

1. Rom 8:13: The subject of the verb is you.
2. 2 Cor 7:1: Let us cleanse ourselves.
3. 1 Tim 4:7: Exercise thyself
4. Eph 4:1,17: Walk
5. Eph 4:22-24: The argument is that because you have put off, been renewed in mind, and put on in the past, continue the process and do not grieve the Holy Spirit by failure to do so. (v.30)
6. 1 Tim 6:11; 2 Tim 2:22: "flee" sinful practices and "pursue" righteousness.
7. 1 Cor 9:24-27: Great effort is exerted to bring the body into subjection.

- Systems that deny that man must actively cooperate with the Spirit lead to pride and defeat.

## C. The Word of God must be active on:

### 1. The mind (Renewing of the mind)

- a. Rom 6:11: “reckon,” “consider,” “think saved” 1 Cor 6:9-11
- b. Rom 12:1-2: “renewing” of the mind
- c. Eph 4:23: “be renewed”

### 2. Actions or Habits.

- a. Rom 6:12: Present
- b. 1 Tim 4:7: Exercise
- c. Eph 4:22-24: Put off - Put on
  - If habits are changed and the mind is not, then the result is only a Pharisee. Examples of this can be seen in legalism, behaviorism, or counselees who want to be biblical but neglect their relationship to Christ or ignore a wrong goal.
  - There are many systems that ignore the Word



D. It is a gradual process

1. Phil 3:13: I haven't arrived.

2. Gal 5:16: Walk

E. There is a great expenditure of effort.

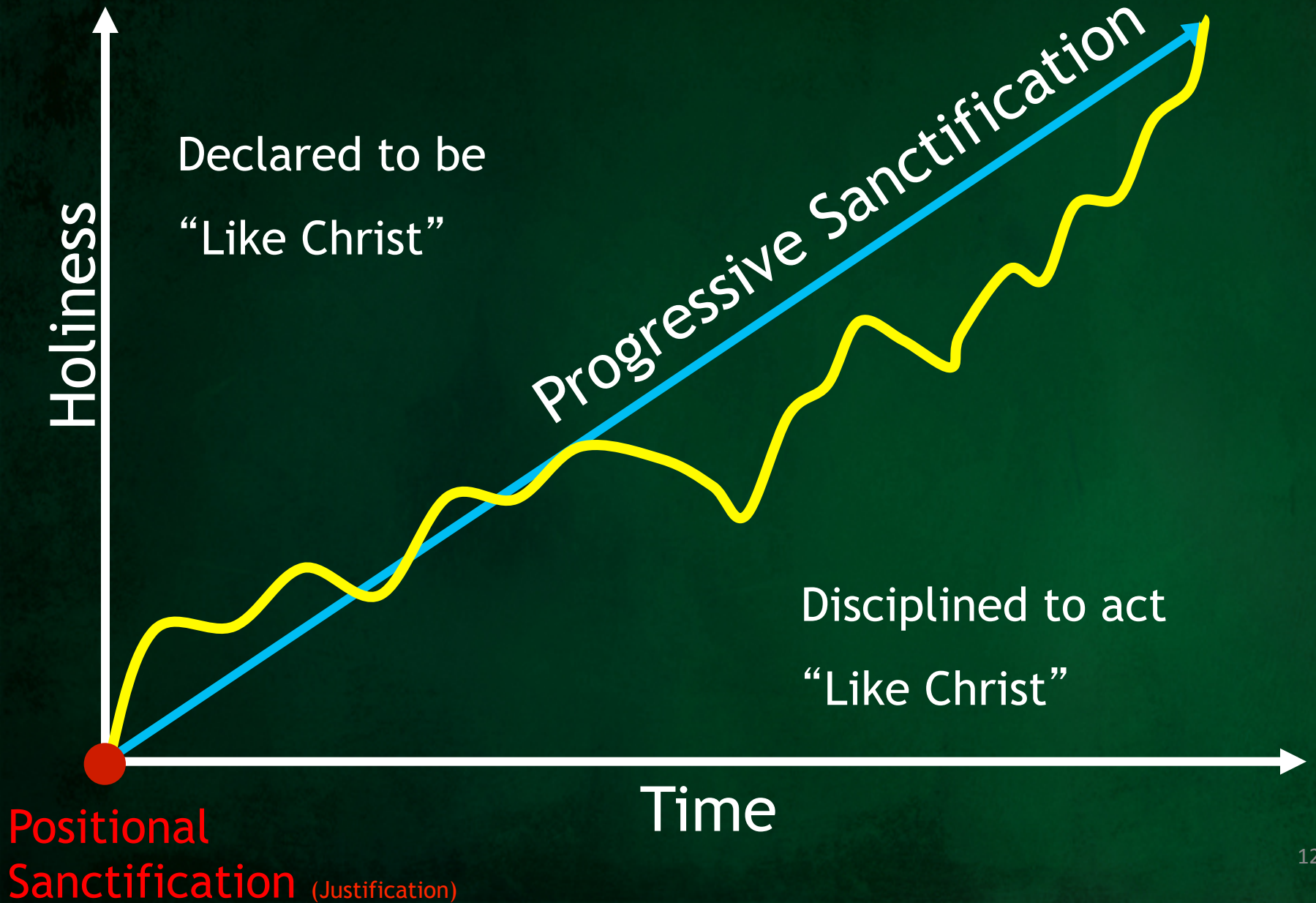
1. 1 Cor 9:24-27: "race," "keep under"

2. Eph 6:10-12: "conflict," "wrestling"

3. 2 Tim 4:6,7: "fight," "course"

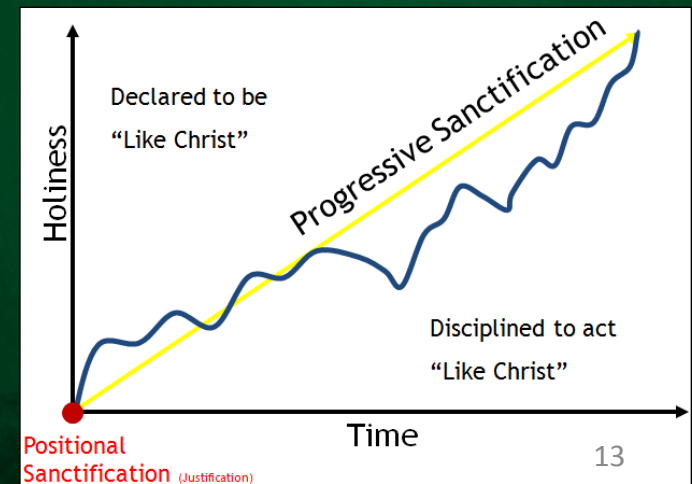
- Systems that ignore these truths and expect an infusion, zap, or instantaneous whiffle dust change.

### III. Biblical Change -- to be like Christ





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#### IV. How, then, must we respond?

A. We must keep our minds settled on Bible truths.

- He did not say He would zap people and relieve them of responsibility but would bless them in the doing of the deed or work (James 1:25)

B. We must hear clearly what our counselee believes to be the way he must grow. Then guide him to biblical growth.

- Renewing of the mind through Scripture; showing the worthiness of Jesus Christ and His biblical way.

- Putting off old habits of thinking and acting by the Spirit's strength.

- Putting on the likeness of Christ or fruit of the Spirit in patterns of growth.





# SUGGESTED HOMEWORK

*FUNDAMENTALS OF THE FAITH* WORKBOOK LESSON 7

(BE SURE TO LISTEN TO THE AUDIO MESSAGE FIRST)



# GOING DEEPER

MEMORIZE 2 COR. 3:18; 2 PETER 3:18

READ BIBLICAL OVERVIEW OF  
PROGRESSIVE SANCTIFICATION  
(ON WEBSITE UNDER TRACK I DOCUMENTS)

*HOW GOOD IS GOOD ENOUGH*

BY ANDY STANLEY





# NEXT CLASSES

I.7 HOW DO I CHANGE?

I.8 DEALING WITH DISAPPOINTMENT AND LOSS