

Neither is sanctification *final growth*. It does not imply final attainment. You must discriminate between purity and maturity. You may have the most perfect baby but he is not a man yet. He has to grow and develop and increase; but people really and truly do not begin to grow in grace until they are sanctified. It is more frequently a falling down and a getting up again than an even onward progress in grace and salvation. Hence if you really want to grow in grace, if you want to rise to the possibilities of your nature in the salvation of God, you must be delivered from sin, for sin undoes you, knocks you down into the mud, as it were, and you have to be, as the apostle says, "always laying the foundation for repentance from dead works." How can such people grow? Instead of growing on, and on, and on, until they attain the stature of the perfect man in Christ Jesus, they stop short in perpetual babyhood.

II. If sanctification is not these things, what is it?

We believe it to be DELIVERANCE FROM SIN—full conformity of heart, and mind, and will, to the law and mind of God—having the heart circumcised to keep His law, having His Spirit in us causing us to walk in His statutes and ordinances blamelessly, an inward transformation into the very likeness of Christ, a purifying of the motives, purposes, desires, affections of the soul, and a thorough committal on the side of God and right at all costs. That is what we understand by holiness, and will anybody dare to say this is more than God calls us to? Will any Christian? No, no one who has the Spirit of God dare look me in the face and say that with less than that God is satisfied. What! You want to keep a little of the image of the devil. What! You want to be mostly saint and a little bit sinner. What! You desire to fall short of that perfect reflection of the image of Christ; then, as good old Doddridge said, "If you are not aiming after the highest attainments in Christ, you are not in a state of grace at all." The very least measure of the Spirit of God sets a soul longing after the fulness. He can no more rest without it than the angels of Heaven could. He is hungering and thirsting from the time he gets saved until he is filled and satisfied with the righteousness which Jesus Christ promised.

I argue that holiness is attainable in this life from two or three considerations.

First, I argue that holiness is attainable *because it is expressly emphatically and repeatedly commanded*. Jesus Christ, whose teachings were all, or nearly all, prospective, concludes one of His addresses on the Mount with saying, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father in Heaven is perfect." What does He mean? It must at least mean, that in our measure and according to our capacity we are perfectly to fulfil the law of benevolence as God does with His capacity.

But some people think to get out of the difficulty by saying that the context shows that our Lord here refers to forgiving and loving our enemies. I say you don't get out of the difficulty that way, for if a man can in his heart forgive his enemies and pray for them that