

Belgic Confession, Article 24, "Sanctification"

Scripture Lesson: Colossians 3:1-17

Lesson Aim	To understand the meaning and significance of the doctrine of sanctification and how it is distinguished from the doctrine of justification.
Steps to Learning	Read Belgic Confession, Article 24 and Colossians 3:1-17. Discuss the sermon and the particulars of the lesson below. It may be best to work through the material over several days or sessions.
Discuss	To review: what is the doctrine of justification? Justification may be defined as God forgiving us of our sins and imputing us with the righteousness of Jesus Christ through faith in Christ. What is true faith? True faith is defined as that which has knowledge of who Christ is and what he has done, assent to these truths and a hearty trust in Christ. What is a simple definition of sanctification? Sanctification is the process of us becoming more like Christ in his moral character. Who works sanctification in us? God does. What are the three components of sanctification? Sanctification or regeneration, the dying of the old man and the quickening of the new man. Regeneration is the work of the Holy Spirit to renew our hearts. The dying of the old man is heartfelt sorrow for sin; causing us to hate and turn from it always more and more. The quickening of the new man is heartfelt joy in God through Christ; causing us to take delight in living according to the will of God in all good works. How does God work sanctification in us? Through the preaching of the Word of God and the administration of the sacraments. From where do good works proceed? Our good works only proceed from the good root of faith and are sanctified by God's grace. All justified people are sanctified and produce good works as a healthy tree produces fruit.
Bible Reading	1 Kings 9-21 (covering the great Bible stories)