SIN NATURE and SANCTIFICATION

By: David A. Sargent

Romans 2:14-15, "For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another..." It is not the SIN of Lying that is in our sin nature, or the nature TO SIN. But SIN itself REIGNS in our mortal bodies: Romans 6:12, "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof." It is THIS nature that I am talking about when I say sin nature: NOT THE SINS OF ADAM. I am not implying ADAM'S personal SINS came through the blood to us, and I am not saying we do not have a choice in the matter of our personal SIN. The FACTS remain: all man's trouble is IN THE BLOOD! We are in the WRONG BLOOD LINE! It is the BLOOD LINE OF SIN. We need to get in the RIGHT BLOOD LINE: the BLOOD of Lord Jesus Christ: GOD'S BLOODLINE! Notice about DEATH: Romans 5:17, "For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ." But DEATH cannot REIGN unless SIN REIGNS: Romans 5:21, "That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord." SIN reigns unto DEATH: so when we say that death passed upon all men, we MUST by the REASON FOR DEATH, say that SIN also passed upon all men because the Bible says: There is the SIN OF THE WORLD, there is the SINS THEMSELVES, and there are YOUR personal SINS.

Romans 5:12, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:" To say SIN ENTERED INTO THE WORLD is to say sin passed unto all men, ergo death BY sin: therefore you can say: so DEATH entered the world BY SIN: for all have sinned. He is saying the same thing about SIN and DEATH just in different words.

Now let me help you to understand the three aspects of SIN: one, SIN universal. This is the element of SIN that is IN US from birth that was INHERITED. It is the SIN that is IN THE WORLD. Jesus Christ came to take away the SIN OF THE WORLD: well DID HE? John 1:29, "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." If NOT then the Bible is lying! Then Jesus Christ came to NAIL THE COMMANDMENTS OF SINS ON THE CROSS: Colossians 2:14, "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;" This means Jesus Christ died for the SIN of MURDER, the SIN of LYING, etc. EACH and EVERY SIN: thus SINS. That means there could not be any special group of people who were chosen to hell! Christ died for SINS! Next is the SINNER'S SINS. Here we get down to PERSONAL RECONCILIATION. The other two are UNIVERSAL in their degree of what Christ DID on the cross. BUT for the INDIVIDUAL to become RECONCILED to God, HE must Receive Jesus Christ as HIS OWN PERSONAL saviour by an ACT of FREEWILL choice. This means the Calvinist that has not ever done that is LOST! We must do this because we have PERSONAL SINS: Jesus Christ died for all; but he died for a select few! Both statements are true. God reconciled the WORLD to himself in Jesus Christ: Because Jesus Christ IS the GOD-MAN! God was PLEASED with what CHRIST did to the extent that it took care of SIN in the world, the SINS of the world: and YOUR personal sins: sinner! Now lets see these three in the Bible: we have the ADAMIC first sin and the curse associated with this: Genesis 2:16-17, "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." The knowledge of good and evil IS the sin nature that we have. The death of the spirit IN man is the inevitability of that sin nature: but this sin nature is not just EVIL: the knowledge of GOOD and EVIL. The sin nature is not TOTAL DEPRAVITY! As a matter of FACT: the word DEPRAVITY is NOT used in the Bible because of it's assumption that there is no good in

man. There is no merit of goodness that can SAVE us from HELL FIRE and DAMNATION: granted that; but even lost people give good gifts to their children.

Next comes the LAW of Moses: It is this law that condemns us and is a curse too us whereby it needs to be taken out of the way for us. This is what Christ has done.

Next is our personal sins and the SINNER himself: Christ died for YOU! The Old Testament ends in two final words: "...a curse..." The Old Testament has 39 books: which is 3 x 13. Threefold CURSE! DEATH CURSE, the LAW CURSE, and ends in A CURSE!

Let's wrap this all up in a tidy little verse which deals with all three curses; and numerically brings all this to a complete hold! It just so happens to be in chapter 3 and verse 13: as in 3 x 13!

Galatians 3:13, "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:"

Notice the words CURSE are 7 words apart: 777, and then notice all three are given: the curse of the LAW, Christ being made a CURSE for US, and CURSED as in the ending of the OLD TESTAMENT! But notice that Christ is number 1; who is was a 777: and he became a 13 13 13 FOR US number 4 the world: for God so loved the WORLD! Notice the first word LAW is word number 10 for the Ten Commandments: and WRITTEN is word number 20 for the next two tens: making it a 3 fold issue for what was the written law of the whole Old Testament: SIN, SINS, and SINNERS! This verse tells us a threefold truth about SIN and in particular what Christ BECAME for us: 2 Corinthians 5:21, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." NOW if you say you do NOT sin: 1 John 1:8-10, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us." Thus in my flesh dwelleth NO GOOD THING: Romans 7:18, "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not." The sin NATURE is THERE! Now look at this: 1 John 3:9, "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." IF you do NOT reckon the tripartite nature of man you will BREAK your spiritual neck on this. WHO is born of GOD? Not your flesh; and NOT YOUR SOUL! It is your SPIRIT that is born again. The Spirit is NEVER saved in relation to reconciliation to God. The spirit is BORN AGAIN to be reconciled. In like manor the SOUL is NEVER BORN AGAIN! It is SAVED: by it being spiritually circumcised from the FLESH (in type that is the foreskin) It is cut LOOSE from the flesh so that the flesh does NOT AFFECT the soul by it's SIN or by it's SINS.

Sanctification: consecration, dedication, blessing, commitment, allegiance, loyalty and to make HOLY.

First time mention: Genesis 2:3, "And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made." Notice the importance of Sanctification: Exodus 29:37, "Seven days thou shalt make an atonement for the altar, and sanctify it; and it shall be an altar most holy: whatsoever toucheth the altar shall be holy."

Here is where many Christians fail; it is in the realm of being sanctified unto the Lord. The Lord asked God to sanctify the disciples: John 17:17, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." Sanctified by TRUTH; Sanctified by THE WORD OF GOD!

Paul's testimony to King Agrippa says this: Acts 26:17-18, "Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the

power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me." Sanctified by FAITH; Sanctified by receiving FORGIVENESS of SINS!

Romans 15:16, "That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost." Sanctified by THE HOLY GHOST!

1 Corinthians 1:2, "Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:" Sanctified IN CHRIST JESUS!

So far we are sanctified by TRUTH, THE WORD OF GOD, FAITH, FORGIVNESS of SINS, THE HOLY GHOST and IN CHRIST JESUS. What a lot of Sanctification!

But notice that our sanctification is found in Jesus Christ: 1 Corinthians 1:30-31, "But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord."

The word Sanctified has an opposition: 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."

The three: Washed, Sanctified, Justified! All of which are different from the Imputed Righteousness given by saving Faith.

When you received Jesus Christ as your saviour: you were imputed righteousness: then the Holy Spirit came in and merged with your dead spirit, making a NEW Spirit: thus you were BORN AGAIN: that is, your SPIRIT was born again. Next the Holy Spirit CUT your SOUL from your BODY, in the spiritual circumcision made without hands. Your Soul was WASHED in the Blood: that cleansing brought about the sanctification whereby you were set apart from sin and your mortality and now God sees you as His SON: Justified! So we see here how these things work together: Imputation, Sanctification, and Justification. But there is a whole like more things that took place.

Continuing with Sanctification: Ephesians 5:25-27, "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."

Notice again Sanctification has to do with cleansing or washing, by the word: notice also that it should be HOLY and without BLEMISH!

NOW what happens when a Christian SINS? We become DIRTY with sin? Then we should loose our salvation right? NO! We become DIRTY: but we can not loose something that is not ours! We can not make eternal life: mortal life no matter what we do! Because it was not giving to us BY what we DO: but was a free gift! NO STRINGS ATTACHED! So, what happens?

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8, "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: That no man go beyond and defraud his

brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit."

You jeopardize your sanctification; and thereby loose fellowship with God!

The issue with this sanctification is that you should have BODY, SOUL and SPIRIT come under this in totality: 1 Thessalonians 5:23, "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." Even you're BODY you must keep clean or you can loose fellowship with God.

Sanctification has THREE elements therefore: 2 Thessalonians 2:13, "But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:" Now this verse did NOT say: "...God chosen you from the beginning of time..." The beginning is when you believed the truth IN THE CONTEXT! Thus, you believed the truth; you got sanctification of the Spirit, then because of that you were chosen to salvation. Paul is notorious for putting things in reverse order: the key word for understanding the order is the word "through"! That would mean what comes after was antecedent to the wording prior to "through". And what came prior to "through" was therefore chronologically next. This is one of God's ways of writing many things in the Bible.

Now about BEING sanctified in your life:

2 Timothy 2:19, "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work."

By purging yourself of these you are sanctifying yourself, and allowing yourself to be meet for the master's use. Else you are not a vessel of honour, but to dishonour. If you are a vessel of gold, you should shine like gold; if you are a vessel of earth, you should be the best vessel you can be regardless of what you are made of. Notice that ALL the vessels are made from things from the GROUND: even wood as it feeds from the ground as a seed to become a tree. Notice that all these vessels are SAVED people: some are honorable and some are NOT. BUT you can NOT be a vessel unless you are saved. You are not BORN AGAIN yet. You are still the element you are before. Lost people do not figure in the HOUSE of the LORD until they are Born Again! THAT is when you are fashioned into a vessel. If you keep dirty, you are dishonorable: and God will not use you in service but shelf you.

1 Peter 3:15, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:" We are to hold the Lord as HOLY in our hearts, having studied the word of God with a believing heart; thus we will always be able to give an answer to every man that asks us a reason of the hope that is in us... What a wonderful blessing that is.

Lastly: We are sanctified by God the Father: and by this Jesus Christ is our preserver: Jude 1:1, "Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:" It is three fold.

- 1. We are sanctified by Jesus Christ when we get saved! (become a vessel)
- 2. We must sanctify ourselves by the word and by the Holy Ghost to stay clean and be used by God! (wash the vessel)
- 3. We are sanctified by God the Father for our preservation in Jesus Christ! (preserved vessel)