



Let's Read  
*The Institutes*  
*of the Christian Religion, Class 9*

**Book 3: Of the Knowledge of God the Redeemer**  
Chapters 1-5, 11-19



Class Schedule for Book 3 (November)

11/4 – Chapters 1-5, 11-19 (Sanctification & Justification)

11/11 – Chapters 6-10, 20 (Christian Life & Prayer)

11/18 – Chapters 21-24 (Election)

11/25 – Chapters 21-24, 25 (Election, cont. & the Final Resurrection)

## The Effect and Titles of the Holy Spirit

- Christ must become ours and dwell in us.
  - He is our head, the first-born among many brethren.
  - We are ingrafted into him and clothed with him.
- This only by the secret efficacy of the Spirit
  - He separates us from the world.
  - He unites us in the hope of eternal inheritance.
- The Spirit of our sanctification - He quickens and cherishes us
  - Spirit of adoption
  - Life because of righteousness (as refreshing/encouraging water)

## The Chief work of the Holy Spirit

- Faith – “a firm and certain knowledge of God’s benevolence toward us founded on the truth of the freely given promise in Christ both revealed to our minds and sealed upon our hearts.”
  - “knowledge” –
    - faith cannot rest on ignorance (implicit faith)
    - Not exhaustive, but true
  - “firm and certain” –
    - Faith as it ought to be, not as it often seems to be (weak, fluctuating)  
“Doubt does not mortally wound believers.”
    - Faith includes assurance (WCF separates them)
  - “benevolence” – the mercy and grace of God
  - “revealed/sealed” – comprehended and appreciated

## The Chief work of the Holy Spirit

- Repentance – the fruit of faith: a turning to God
  1. A transformation in the soul & demonstration of outward works
  2. A sincere fear of God
  3. Mortification of the flesh and a vivification of the spirit
  
- Repentance = regeneration = sanctification
  - Believers are liberated but not yet perfected
    - Calvin opposes perfectionism (some Anabaptists)
    - “The Christian is always sinning, always repenting, and always forgiven.”
  - Faith cannot be embraced without repentance

## Repentance vs. Penance

### Scholastics

- Focus is on outward exercises “to tame the flesh, partly to chastise and punish faults.”
- Divide repentance into contrition of heart, confession of mouth, and satisfaction of works before forgiveness is gained.
- Compulsory confession before priests unnecessary.

### Rome

- Confessional is the proper use of the keys of the kingdom.
- Cessation from sin is not enough to prove repentance without satisfaction to God (tears, fasting, works of charity, etc.) which repay a debt and redeems us from further punishment.

## Indulgences & Purgatory

- A “profanation of the blood of Christ” and a “Satanic mockery”
- They lead people away from the grace of God in Christ and turn them aside from the true way of salvation.
- “If it is perfectly clear ... that the blood of Christ is the sole satisfaction for the sins of believers, the sole expiation, what remains but to say that purgatory is simply a dreadful blasphemy against Christ?”

## Justification

- Redemption – a double grace granted immediately in union w/Christ
  - We have, in God, not a Judge but a gracious Father.
  - We have opportunity to cultivate blamelessness and purity of life (regeneration).
- Calvin’s order of teaching: sanctification – Christian life - justification?
  - Justification by faith alone does not produce a Christian walk destitute of good wk.s
  - Wk.s done by believers cannot merit further acceptance before God
- the “hinge on which religion turns”
  1. being reckoned righteous in God’s judgment and
  2. being accepted on account of God’s righteousness:
    - a) forgiveness of sins, and
    - b) imputation of Christ’s righteousness

## Justification in the church

- Unbelievers
  - Recipients of “notable endowments”
  - Deserve punishment for defiling these endowments
  - Any good they perform is not intended to serve God and, therefore, must be reckoned “sin”
- Initiates into the church yet lead impure lives
- False brothers (hypocrites)
  - Remain under condemnation, lacking faith and remain unreconciled to God.
  - Their “good works” are nothing of the sort
- Truly regenerated by the HS
  - Our continued failures before the Law keep us humble before God
  - Not a single work deserves less than shame

## Refutation of Objections

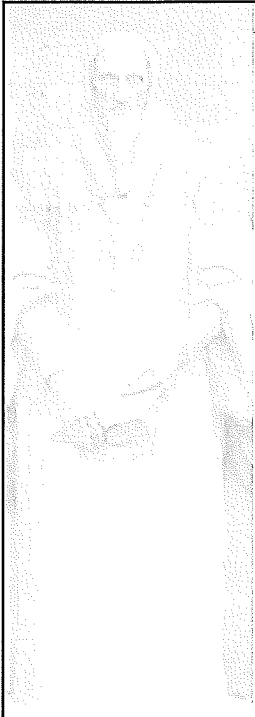
- Accusation: Such a justification yields a life of reckless immorality.
- Calvin:
  - One cannot take hold of justification without simultaneously taking hold of sanctification.
  - God’s love is the spur that prods us and makes us press on in good works.
  - In response,
    - We remember what our freedom cost Christ.
    - we seek God’s honor and glory in all we do.

## Refutation of Objections

- “Do this and live.” – Promises attached to the law
  - The law condemns unless obeyed perfectly
  - Christ gives us a “spiritual freedom” from the law’s condemnation
  - The law’s promises are only effectual to us through the gospel

## Christian Freedom is an appendage to Justification

- It is freedom from the law’s condemnation and judgment; but it still calls and arouses us to a pursuit of godliness.
- It is freedom to observe the law *willingly*.
- It is freedom from bondage to indifferent things.
  - Moderation – avoiding both asceticism and indulgence  
“We should live, not luxuriate.”
  - Compassion – helping toward the edification of our neighbor
    - Distinguishing between the weakness of a brother and a Pharisee
    - Distinguishing between offending God and offending our neighbor



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