

POSITIONAL TRUTH (part one)

Teleiology is a theological term used to describe the study of spiritual growth maturity in CWL.

(Heb.5:14) “But solid food is for the mature (teleios), who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.” (Matt.4:4)

We are presently studying **12 Church Age doctrines** that are essential for spiritual growth maturity in CWL. Positional Truth is the **sixth doctrine** in this series of lessons.

If you haven't already done so, I would encourage you to review the audio and study notes on our previous five doctrines posted on our Church's web site, www.doctrinalstudies.com they are: Grace, Dispensations, Spirituality, the Faith Cycle and The Will of God.

Positional Truth is a doctrinal term that we will use to describe the theology of new covenant sanctification (hagiasmos).

“The NT presents the doctrine of sanctification in three aspects: positional, experiential, and ultimate sanctification.” (Unger Bible Dictionary, pg.966)

Hagiosmos, the Greek word for sanctification consists of (hagios) [holy or saint] and the suffix (mos) [the act of being set apart to God's holiness].

The reason I like to teach Positional Truth in connection with sanctification is because positional truth deals with four important issues rather than three.

- **Retroactive positional truth (unbeliever)**
- **Current position truth (salvation)**
- **Experiential positional truth (CWL)**
- **Ultimate positional truth (eternity).**

The doctrine of Positional Truth is derived from two Greek prepositional phrases “in Adam” (unbelievers) and “in Christ” (believers) (1 Cor.15:22).

<p>Today's lesson (part one) will study three aspects of the doctrine of Positional Truth in order to understand the theology of New Covenant Sanctification.</p>
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1. We will begin with the unbeliever's status “in Adam”.

(Eph.2:5-6) “Even when we were **dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ** (by grace you have been saved), and **raised us up with Him**, and **seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus.**”

Some theologians refer to the unbeliever's status as “dead in transgressions” as part of retroactive positional truth that is necessary for sanctification.

It is referring to the 13 judicial charges of Adam's Original Sin (AOS) or the unbeliever's position “in Adam” (1 Cor.15:22) “For **in Adam** all die, so also **in Christ** all shall be made alive.”

Retroactive positional truth (RAPT) identifies every member of the human race with the spiritual death of Jesus Christ on the cross because of AOS. (Rom.5:12-21)

(1Pet.2:24) “And He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.”; 3:18)

This is necessary before new covenant sanctification.

2. Personal faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ transfers the believer from a fallen position in Adam (AOS) to an exalted position in Jesus Christ.

(Eph.2:5b-6) “Made alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus.” (Col.1:13-14) **This is necessary before sanctification.**

The 13 judicial charges of AOS (in Adam) are removed forever from a Believer’s life at the moment of grace salvation. This is part of the grace package of 50 Things of Salvation that every believer receives the moment he believes the gospel of Jesus Christ. (SEE “50 Things FREE”) This is the importance of RAPT.

(1 Cor.1:2) “To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who **have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling**, with all who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours.” (Rom.8:1)

(Acts 26:18) Therefore sanctification sets a believer apart from AOS into God’s holiness by the grace gospel through faith – “To open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, in order that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who **have been sanctified by faith in Me.**”

(1 Cor.1:30) “But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and **sanctification**, and redemption.”

(Heb.13:12) “Therefore Jesus also, that He might **sanctify** the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate.”

The phrase “in Christ” is used 164 times by Paul in the NT.

(2 Cor.5:17) “Therefore if any man is **in Christ**, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.” (Eph.1:4)

In New Covenant theology, sanctification has three categories that apply to believers “in Christ”:

- **Positional Sanctification**
- **Experiential Sanctification**
- **Ultimate Sanctification.**

3. Baptism of Holy Spirit places every CAB into union with the resurrected-ascended Lord Jesus Christ. (Mat.3:11; Acts 1:5; 2:31-33; John 7:37-39 and John 14-16) (It is 1 of 8 works of Holy Spirit.)

Theologians call this **Positional Sanctification** and Current Positional Truth (CPT)

(Gal.3:27-28) “For **all** of you who were **baptized into Christ** have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Rom.6:3-5; Col.2:12)

(1 Cor.12:13) “For by one Spirit we are **all baptized into one body**, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.” (Eph.1:3)

(1 Cor.6:11) “And such were some of you, but you were washed, **but you were sanctified**, **but you** were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, **and** in the Spirit of our God.” (1 Pet.1:2)

(Col.3:1-2) “If then you have been **raised up with Christ**, keep seeking the things above; where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.”

CPT results in the other 37 features of grace salvation of the 50 THINGS: (SEE “50 Things FREE”)

- **9 communion factors of blood of Christ;**
- **8 works of Holy Spirit;**
- **20 status-privileges.**

4. Experiential Sanctification comes by walking by means of the indwelling Holy Spirit and by means of the faith cycle (2 Cor.5:7; Col.2:6-7).

This is called experiential positional truth (EPT). It teaches that the indwelling Holy Spirit’s ministry is the absolute source of spirituality for the Believer (Gal.5:16, 22-23, 25; Rom.8:9; 2 Cor.7:1).

(1 Thess.4:7-8) “For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification. Consequently, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.”

When the Believer chooses to Walk “according to the flesh” and commits personal sin, he/she does not change their position “In Christ”, they change their “position” of their walk with the Holy Spirit (Gal.5:16-17; 1 Cor.3:1-3) [carnality vs. spirituality] (James 1:14-15; Eph.4:30; 1 Thess.5:19; 1 John 1:9).

Walking by sight and in reversionism does not change the Believer’s position “In Christ”, only his conformity to the world (Rom.12:2) [conformity vs. transformity] (Eph.4:24; Acts 20:32; Col.3:3).

5. Ultimate Sanctification teaches the CAB that he can NEVER be separated from his position “In Christ”

(John 10:29-30) “My Father, who has given to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.” (John 14:16; Jude 24-25; Rom.8:37-39; 1 John 5:11-13)

Ultimate positional truth (UPT)

(1 Thess.5:23) “Now may the God of peace Himself **sanctify you entirely**; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Eph.5:26-27; 2 Thess. 1:10)