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## **Sanctification Through Biblical Change (Romans 8:28-29)**

**In previous columns, we covered the Definition and Goal of Biblical Discipleship, Foundational Bible Verses for Biblical Soul Care, and Foundations of Biblical Change. In this article, we will discuss sanctification through Biblical change (Rom 8:28-29).**

**We begin first by understanding that God is sovereign over biblical change in every believers life. In other words, God is in complete control over all the circumstances that come into our lives. One of the most important verses in Scripture about biblical change (sanctification) is Romans 8:29 which says, “*For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son...*” So let’s look at this verse more closely.**

***Foreknew & Predestined* – This is not just a reference to God’s all knowing (omniscience) attribute; but rather, speaks to the point of progressive sanctification (biblical change) in the believer’s life as a choice by God who literally marks out, appoints, or determines that every Christian is to be transformed into the likeness of His Son Jesus Christ. This is accomplished by The Holy Spirit using the power of God’s Word in and through our life’s circumstances, trials, issues, and events to grow us spiritually.**

***Conformed to the Image of His Son* – This is the goal of God’s predetermined purpose for every Christian that they will become more like Jesus Christ. In other words, Christians will mature biblically in their character, integrity, thoughts, speech, and actions, thus bringing glory to God in their daily Christian walk. We are progressively sanctified through life’s circumstances, trials, issues, and events which God has allowed Christians to experience.**

**We must then ask the question, “How does God conform Christians into the image of Christ?” God’s sovereignty over our lives and His love for us provide us with a special verse Romans 8:28. That verse says, “*And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*” This verse tells us that God causes (allows, permits, decrees, purposes) everything we experience in life to work together for our good. The Greek meaning of the word “good” refers to our Spiritual Growth. Christians are being progressively sanctified into spiritual maturity. Now, let’s look at this verse’s key principles that will provide you with great hope and encouragement in the midst of all trials, circumstances, issues, and events that come into your life.**

***And we know* – Christians know the certainty of sanctification and that knowledge is gained by spiritual perception.**

***That God causes*** – God orchestrates or allows every event in our lives, every trial, every circumstance, every issue, to accomplish both our temporal (earthly) and eternal benefit (to become more like Christ).

***All things to work together for good*** – “All things”, means everything. God orchestrates or allows everything in our lives. The believer’s ultimate “good” means our Spiritual Growth, which is accomplished by progressive sanctification in every believer’s life. The verb “He works together” is in the present tense and means this is a continuing activity of God in our lives.

***To those who love God*** - God works on behalf of those who love Him (Christians).

***To those who are called according to His purpose*** – The word “purpose” means God’s plan and purpose for every believer, which is the believer’s sanctification.

Now, my prayer for you is that you see that you can have great hope and encouragement in the midst of trials and issues in your life. God is sovereign over EVERYTHING that He allows to come into your life because He has orchestrated or allowed it for your good (your spiritual growth – sanctification). Please go to 1 Corinthians 10:13 and read and study this verse until next time.

If you or someone you know is struggling with life issues, please reach out for help at [watersedgebiblechurch.com](http://watersedgebiblechurch.com). God Bless!