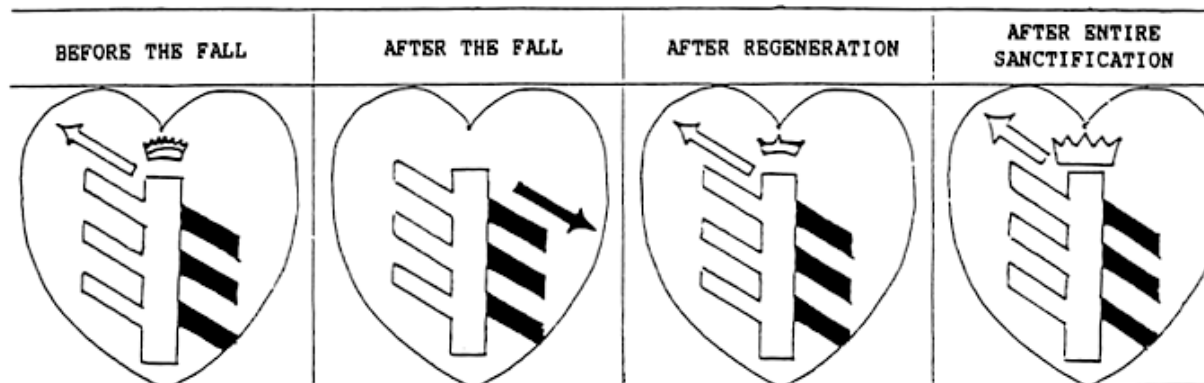


b. Alternate views of sanctification



In the Roman Catholic view, the higher and lower aspects of man's nature are in contrast to each other. The "spiritual" part of man, the mind, is higher; the "carnal" part of man, the body, is lower; and the question of which part gains the ascendancy determines this view's conception of man's status vis-a-vis sinfulness and holiness at any given stage.

In the first state (before the Fall), the balance between man's higher and lower parts is tipped in the direction of goodness by the gift of original righteousness. In the second stage (after the Fall) man has lost the gift of original righteousness and gained a strong tendency downward, toward evil. In the third stage (after regeneration), man, through the Sacrament of Baptism, gains the gift of sanctifying grace, which tips him in the direction of goodness once more. In the fourth stage, man is entirely freed from all tendencies toward evil, even though he still retains his higher and lower powers following resurrection. In the Roman Catholic view, some human beings have gained this stage in life.

VIEW OF CHARLES G. FINNEY

