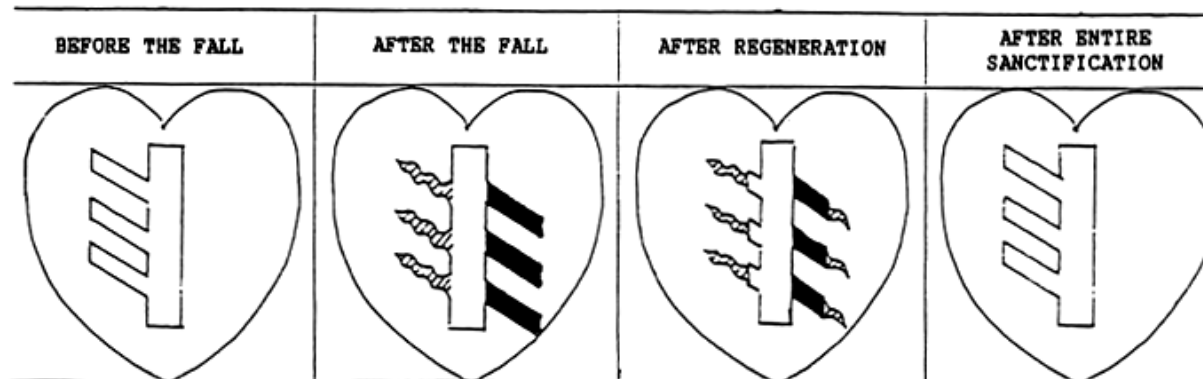


In Charles G. Finney's view of entire sanctification, God has always held man responsible only for what he is fully able to do. Ability conditions responsibility. In addition, sin and holiness are not natures, dispositions, or states, but only inhere in actions. Thus there is no such thing as a sinful or holy nature; there are only sinful or holy actions. In all four stages of man's spiritual history, man's nature looks the same. The difference between the stages is that before the Fall mankind simply obeyed all of God's commands; after the Fall man turned from obedience; after regeneration man again does what he ought to do (but imperfectly); and after entire sanctification man once again simply obeys all of God's commands. No man is responsible for some supposed high standard of legal perfection; rather, each man is held responsible for what he, individually, is able to do. If he reaches this personally adjusted standard, he achieves entire sanctification in his life.

VIEW OF JOHN AND CHARLES WESLEY



In the view of John and Charles Wesley, perfect love is the hallmark and epitome of evangelical obedience; and such love is both commanded and, by God's grace, attainable in this life.

In the first stage of man's spiritual history (before the Fall) mankind was holy and entirely free from all sin. In the second stage (after the Fall) man lost all holiness and gained a sinful, depraved nature. However, he retained some small rudiments of the good qualities he had had before the Fall (albeit greatly attenuated). But these relatively good remnants contribute nothing to his salvation. Fallen man is so helpless and hopeless in his spiritual death and moral depravity that there would not even exist a possibility of salvation, unless God intervened in grace and mercy. This He has done, extending prevenient grace to all men so that they can make a favorable response to the gospel of Christ's redemption and be saved. In the third stage (after regeneration) a twofold process has begun: the evil attributes have begun to attenuate, and the relatively good attributes are given new life and made initially new. In the fourth stage (after entire sanctification or perfection) the evil