

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

Sanctification

Doctrinal Statement: Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God (Romans 12:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:12).

The Scriptures teach a life of “holiness without which no man shall see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14, KJV).

By the power of the Holy Spirit we are able to obey the command: “Be ye holy; for I am holy” (1 Peter 1:15-16, KJV).

A. The Meaning of Sanctification

1. The central idea of sanctification is a two-part separation—separation from evil and to God.
2. In its broadest sense, sanctification is the process by which God is cleansing the whole creation from everything that is sinful.
3. Applied at the individual level, sanctification is the process by which God makes his people holy and righteous.
 - a. Holiness is conformity to God’s nature.
 - b. Righteousness is conformity to God’s law.

B. The Process of Sanctification

1. Sanctification is both instant and progressive in the believer’s life.

1 Cor. 6:11

But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Hebrews 10:10

And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

1 John 1:7

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

Hebrews 10:14

For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

2. The process of sanctification involves cooperation between God and the believer.

- God the Father plans and wills the sanctification of the world and its people. God the Son dies to accomplish the plan. God the Holy Spirit is the active agent in sanctification today applying the work of Jesus to the believer's life.

3. The Holy Spirit sanctifies individuals in stages:

- He Convicts the world.

John 16:8-11

⁸ When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ about sin, because people do not believe in me; ¹⁰ about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; ¹¹ and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

- The Holy Spirit's conviction can be resisted.

Acts 7:51

"You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit!

- He Cleanses the believer.

2 Thessalonians 2:13

But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.

1 Cor. 6:11

But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

- He Realizes righteousness in the believer by:
 - continually applying the work of Christ to the believer's life

1 John 1:7-9

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all^[b] sin.

⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Hebrews 10:12-13

But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,¹³ and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. ¹⁴ For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

- delivering the believer from sin

Romans 8:5

Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

Galatians 5:16-17

¹⁶ So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.

4. Believers cooperate with God in their sanctification by

- pursuing holiness as an act of their wills

Phil 2:13

for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

Col 3:1-2

for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

- intentionally setting themselves apart from things that can lead to sin

1 Tim 6:11

But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.

2 Tim 2:22

Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹²It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

- practicing self-discipline

Luke 22:46

“Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.”

John 17:17

Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

- obeying the word of God.

Psalm 119:11

I have hidden your word in my heart
that I might not sin against you.

Galatians 5:16-17

¹⁶ So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the
desires of the flesh.