

## **Statement of Faith - OF SANCTIFICATION**

**We believe that sanctification is the process by which according to the will of God, we are made partakers of His holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration; and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means—especially the Word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer.**

# DOCTRINE MATTERS

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*Knowing the God who loves us*

## **SANCTIFICATION**

**“Because you belong to Christ, the Spirit is transforming you to look like Christ.”**

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Regeneration—God imparts new life.

Justification—God gives us a right legal standing before Him.

Adoption—God brings us into His family.

“Sanctification is the process of being made less like myself and more like Jesus”

- *Alistair Begg*

## Definition of Sanctification:

Sanctification is a *progressive work of God and believers* by which we are made more and more free from sin and more and more like Christ in our actual lives—not merely in our legal standing before God, but in the concrete, daily, lived reality of who we are.

1 Thessalonians 4:3 *“For this is the will of  
God, your sanctification.”*

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**Point 1: Sanctification Has a Definite  
Starting Point**

John 3:6 *“That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”*

Ephesians 1:13–14 *“In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it.”*

**Point 2: Sanctification Is Progressive and  
Transforms the Whole Person  
It Is Progressive — Not Perfection, But  
Direction**

Philippians 3:12–14 *“Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own... forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal.”*

2 Corinthians 3:18 *“And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.”*

“The Christian life is not a sprint but a marathon. God calls us to endure, to press on, and to finish well”

- *John Piper*

*Romans 8:5 "For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit."*

*2 Corinthians 7:1 "Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God."*

1 Thessalonians 5:23 *“Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

**Point 3: Sanctification Requires Both God  
and Your Effort**

Philippians 2:12–13 *“Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”*

*“in the continual use of the appointed means—especially the Word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer.”*

*1 Peter 2:2 "Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation."*

*Luke 9:23 "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."*

*Ephesians 6:18 "Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication."*

# **Our Means of Sanctification**

**The Word of God.**

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The Word of God.

Self-examination.

Self-denial.

Prayer.

2 Peter 1:5–8 *“For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful.”*

**Point 4: Sanctification Is Incomplete Now  
— But Guaranteed to Finish  
You Will Still Struggle — And That Is Okay**

Philippians 3:12 *“Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on...”*

2 Corinthians 13:5 *“Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves.”*

“The absence of struggle is not the goal.  
The presence of Christ in the struggle is.”

- *Matt Chandler*

“The truth is, Growth Reveals Life and Fruit  
Is the Evidence.”

1 John 2:29 *“If you know that he is  
righteous, you may be sure that everyone  
who practices righteousness has been born  
of him.”*

“And the good news is God will finish what He started.”

Philippians 1:6 *“And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”*

2 Peter 3:18 *“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity.”*

“The Lord has not brought us this far to leave us here. He has not fought so many battles for us to desert us now. He has not begun to build and counted the cost without being able to finish.”

- *Charles Spurgeon.*

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