

# SANCTIFICATION

1. Definition of Sanctification
  - 1.1. At the most basic level, sanctification is the work of God's Spirit, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die to sin, and live to righteousness. The word itself means "to make holy" or "to set apart."
  - 1.2. Two senses.
    - 1.2.1. Sometimes sanctification refers to a definitive state, wherein a person is completely sanctified, it is his position. 1 Cor 6:11 A.k.a. "definitive sanctification."
    - 1.2.2. Theologians more commonly speak of "sanctification" as a process. The end or goal of this process is holiness or conformity to the image of God in his Son Jesus Christ. The process itself has two key aspects: mortifying sin and renewing the soul.
  - 1.3. Christians must be sanctified because they retain indwelling sin after regeneration.
  - 1.4. Sanctification is not mere morality.
2. The nature of sanctification.
  - 2.1. Sanctification is a **supernatural work** of the Spirit of God. 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Cor 7:1; 2 Thess 3:4; 1 Thess 4:3; Phil 2:12-13; Eph 2:8-10. At the same time, we must, relying on the God who will sanctify us, exert ourselves in sanctification.
  - 2.2. Sanctification is **provided by the shed blood of Jesus**. **Titus 2:11-14** While they are different works, justification and sanctification go together.
  - 2.3. Sanctification is seated in the **heart**. **Romans 6:17-18**
  - 2.4. Sanctification is **holistic**. Sanctification spreads from the heart to the whole man. **1 Thess 5:23**
  - 2.5. Sanctification is an **ardent** work. **Romans 12:11**
  - 2.6. Sanctification is **progressive**. **2 Cor 7:1**
  - 2.7. Sanctification is for **the glory of God**. Sanctification is necessary because God has called us to it for his own glory.
    - 2.7.1. **Philippians 1:11**
    - 2.7.2. **Philippians 2:13**
    - 2.7.3. **John 15:8**
    - 2.7.4. **Matt 5:16**
    - 2.7.5. **1 Peter 2:12**
    - 2.7.6. **1 Corinthians 6:19b-20**
3. Key texts
  - 3.1. **Eph 4:24**
  - 3.2. **Rom 6:5-12**
  - 3.3. Other texts illumine Christian growth. (See Demarest, *Cross and Salvation*, 411)
    - 3.3.1. Christians grow in good works as they faithfully attend church (Heb 10:19-25).
    - 3.3.2. Christian sanctification happens as believers abide in Christ (John 15:4, 7).
    - 3.3.3. Christians increase in holiness as they cling to their confession (Rev 2:25; 3:11; cf. Heb 10:23).
    - 3.3.4. Christians are transformed into the image of Christ as they hope in him and thereby purify themselves from sin (1 John 3:3).

- 3.3.5. Christian sanctification happens through continuation in Christian teaching and doctrine, whereby they lay hold to the promises of God through faith (John 14:23; 15:7; 17:16).
  - 3.3.6. Christians bear increased fruit as they are disciplined (John 15:2; cf. Heb12:3-17).
  - 4. *Some other ideas concerning sanctification.*
    - 4.1. Second Blessing sanctification.
    - 4.2. The “carnal Christian”?
    - 4.3. Sinless perfection.
  - 5. The Role of the Spirit in Sanctification
    - 5.1. The Spirit’s role in our sanctification is to work love in us.
      - 5.1.1. This is a three-fold work of love:
        - 5.1.2. First, the Spirit assures us of God’s love for us.
          - 5.1.2.1. **John 14:15-17**
          - 5.1.2.2. **Romans 5:5**
          - 5.1.2.3. **Romans 8:15**
        - 5.1.3. Secondly, the Spirit kindles within us love for God for sincere worship and faithful obedience.
          - 5.1.3.1. **Galatians 5:4-6**
          - 5.1.3.2. **Gal 5:22-23**
          - 5.1.3.3. **Roman 8:7**
          - 5.1.3.4. Matt 22:36-40
          - 5.1.3.5. **2 Tim 1:7**
      - 5.1.4. The third work of the Spirit is to generate in us love for other Christians.
        - 5.1.4.1. **Colossians 3:14**
        - 5.1.4.2. **Col 1:8**
        - 5.1.4.3. **Romans 15:30**
    - 5.2. As believers, we ought to be filled with the Spirit of God (Eph 5:18-21). This results in:
      - 5.2.1. Living our life wisely (v 15)
      - 5.2.2. Redeeming our time well (v 16)
      - 5.2.3. Doing God’s will understandingly (v 17)
      - 5.2.4. Avoiding debauchery perpetually (v 18)
      - 5.2.5. Singing praise heartily (v 19)
      - 5.2.6. Giving thanks unceasingly (v 20)
      - 5.2.7. Submitting to God-ordained authority reverently (v 21)
6. Some final points
  - 6.1. Let us hate sin and love holiness
  - 6.2. Is there a sin to which you find yourself enslaved?
  - 6.3. Are you sanctified?
  - 6.4. Look to Jesus.

Sources: Thomas Watson, *Body of Divinity*; John Gill, *Body of Divinity*; Bruce Demarest, *The Cross and Salvation*; John Murray, *The Collected Writings of John Murray, Volume 2*; Jonathan Edwards, *The End for Which God Created the World*