

Associated Gospel Churches - Articles of Faith and Doctrine

Sanctification

January 22, 2006

Sanctification

XI. Sanctification

We believe that all the members of the body of Christ are “sanctified ones” (saints), are perfected as to their standing forever by the one offering of the blood of Christ, and are one with Christ in sanctification. As to their state, they may be sanctified by the Word, by the blood of Christ, and by the inworking presence and power of the Holy Spirit which should issue in behaviour indicating the fruit of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 5:25-27; John 17:17-19; 1 John 1:7-9; Romans 15:16; Jude 1; 1 Corinthians 6:11; Ephesians 4:22-24; Hebrews 2:11, 10:10, 13:12

Sanctification

- **Sanctification**

- **“separation to God”** (Vine’s Expository Dictionary, p. 545)

- **aka ‘consecration’ - set apart to be holy, or set apart for God’s service**

- **depicted in OT - Israel & the Levitical priesthood**

- **“the course of life befitting those so separated”**
(Vine’s Expository Dictionary, p.545)

Sanctification

- **Sanctification**

- **“the process by which an entity is brought into relationship with or attains the likeness of the holy”** (New Bible Dictionary, p. 1058)
- **“a progressive work of God and man that makes us more and more free from sin and like Christ in our actual lives”** (Grudem, p.746)

Sanctification

- Sanctification

- central to the Christian life

- all Christians are “sanctified ones” (saints)

Acts 20:32

‘Now I commit you to God and to the word of His grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among *all those who are sanctified*.

Sanctification

- Sanctification

- a ‘one-time event’ *AND* a process

- a tension between “already” and “not yet”

- completed in Christ’s death on the Cross (a one-time event)

- experienced in life through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit - not complete until death (a process in which we co-operate with the Holy Spirit)

- “Christ’s work is to ‘cleansing from the old, and consecrate to the new’.” (Foulkes)

Sanctification

- **Sanctification**

- **as a process, occurs in 3 stages:**

- **begins with regeneration**

- **continues throughout life**

- **completed/brought to final goal when we see God**

Sanctification

- **completed in Christ's death on the Cross**
 - **Scripture at times refers to sanctification as an event that occurred in the past**
 - ***we were* made holy / brought into relationship with & set apart for God through Christ's death on the Cross**

Sanctification

- completed in Christ's death on the Cross
 - Scripture at times refers to sanctification as an event that occurred in the past

- **1 Corinthians 6:9-11**

Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. *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.*

Sanctification

- completed in Christ's death on the Cross
 - **Ephesians 5:25-27 (ESV)**

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and *gave Himself up for her, that He might sanctify her, **having cleansed her*** by the washing of water with the word, so that He might present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

- **nothing that we could do to cleanse and present ourselves in splendor to our Lord - He had to do it by giving Himself up for us**

Sanctification

- completed in Christ's death on the Cross

- **John 17:17-19**

Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. *For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.*

- **Hebrews 2:11 (ESV)**

For He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one origin. That is why He is not ashamed to call them brothers.

- **Christ's disciples are "one with Christ in sanctification"**

Sanctification

- completed in Christ's death on the Cross
 - **Hebrews 10:10,14 (ESV)**

And by that will *we have been sanctified* [made holy (NIV)] through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all... For *by a single offering He has perfected for all time* those who are being sanctified.

- **Hebrews 13:12 (ESV)**

So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through His own blood.

Sanctification

- **an ongoing, progressive work**
 - **living out the reality of Christ's work on the Cross on our behalf, in the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit**
 - **involves our co-operation with the Holy Spirit to become more like Christ**
 - **occurs in 3 stages**

Sanctification

- an ongoing, progressive work

1. Begins with regeneration

- those who have been born again cannot continue to sin as a pattern of life
- the power of the new life in us keeps us from yielding to a life of sin

1 John 3:9

No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God.

Sanctification

- an ongoing, progressive work

1. Begins with regeneration

- involves a definite break with the ruling power and love of sin in our lives
 - no longer dominated by sin, though not yet completely free from it

Romans 6:17-18

But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

Sanctification

- an ongoing, progressive work
 2. Continues and increases throughout life
 - living out daily the reality that Christ has sanctified us through His death on the Cross

Hebrews 10:14 (ESV)

For by a single offering He has perfected for all time *those who are being sanctified.*

Sanctification

- an ongoing, progressive work

2. Continues and increases throughout life

- living out daily the reality that Christ has sanctified us through His death on the Cross
 - “putting off” sin, “putting on” Christ

Ephesians 4:22-24

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Sanctification

- an ongoing, progressive work

2. Continues and increases throughout life

- ongoing process of co-operating with God to get rid of sin in our lives and to become more and more like Christ

Romans 6:19 (ESV)

...For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

Sanctification

- an ongoing, progressive work

2. Continues and increases throughout life

- ongoing process of co-operating with God to get rid of sin in our lives and to become more and more like Christ

Galatians 5:16-17, 24-25

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want...Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Sanctification

- an ongoing, progressive work

2. Continues and increases throughout life

- ongoing process of co-operating with God to get rid of sin in our lives and to become more and more like Christ

“For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but *if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body*, you will live.”

(Romans 8:13)

- a **passive component**: depending on God to sanctify us; yielding to the Holy Spirit’s promptings and power in our lives
- an **active component**: putting sin to death; striving to live holy lives

Sanctification

- an ongoing, progressive work

2. Continues and increases throughout life

- **this process is never complete in this life**

Proverbs 20:9

Who can say, “I have kept my heart pure; I am clean and without sin”?

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

Sanctification

- an ongoing, progressive work

3. Is completed at death

- **Our souls set free from indwelling sin at death**

Hebrews 12:23

...You have come to God, the judge of all men, *to the spirits of righteous men made perfect...*

Sanctification

- an ongoing, progressive work

3. Is completed at death

- Our bodies will be renewed when Christ returns (glorification)

1 John 3:2

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when He appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

Sanctification

- an ongoing, progressive work

3. Is completed at death

- The hope of reaching the goal of perfect Christ-likeness should spur us on to holiness here & now

1 John 3:3

Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Sanctification

- an ongoing, progressive work

3. Is completed at death

- **The hope of reaching the goal of perfect Christ-likeness should spur us on to holiness here & now**

Philippians 3:12-14

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Sanctification

- **The Means of Sanctification**

- **The blood of Christ**

- **The blood of Christ is sanctified us once for all**

- **Hebrews 10:10 (ESV)**

- **And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.**

- **Hebrews 13:12 (ESV)**

- **So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through His own blood.**

Sanctification

- **The Means of Sanctification**

- **The blood of Christ**

- **The blood of Christ continues to cleanse us from sin**

- **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 sin... If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Sanctification

- **The Means of Sanctification**

- **The Word**

- **The Word is involved in the ‘one-time’ sanctification**

Ephesians 5:25-26 (ESV)

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her, that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word.

John 17:17

Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

Sanctification

- **The Means of Sanctification**

- **The Word**

- **The Word is involved in the ongoing process sanctification**

Psalm 119:9

How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Sanctification

- **The Means of Sanctification**

- **The Holy Spirit**

- **The Spirit participates in ‘one-time’ sanctification**

- Romans 15:16**

- ...to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles with the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, *sanctified by the Holy Spirit*

Sanctification

- **The Means of Sanctification**

- **The Holy Spirit**

- **The indwelling Spirit enables and empowers the process of ongoing sanctification**

Romans 8:13

...but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body,
you will live...

Galatians 5:16

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of
the sinful nature.

Sanctification

- **The Means of Sanctification**

- **The Holy Spirit**

- **Produces the fruit of the Spirit in the life of the believer**

Galatians 5:19-23

The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Sanctification

- **Summary**

- **1 Corinthians 6:9-11**

Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. 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.

Sanctification

- **Summary**

- **Philippians 3:12-14**

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Next class

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

January 29, 2006

References

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