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BASIC CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

A Study of the Articles of Faith



Fort Washington Baptist Church
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BASIC CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE A Study of the Articles of Faith



SESSION 51

X. Sanctification

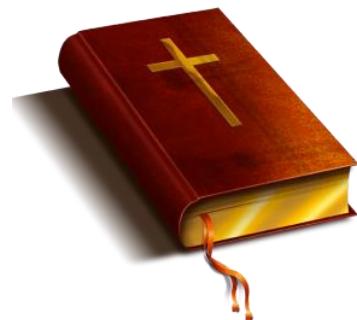
We believe that **sanctification** is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of his holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration; and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means, especially the Word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer.¹

According to Article IX:

¹ [Articles-of-Faith.pdf \(nationalbaptist.com\)](https://nationalbaptist.com/Articles-of-Faith.pdf)

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

The Doctrine of Sanctification

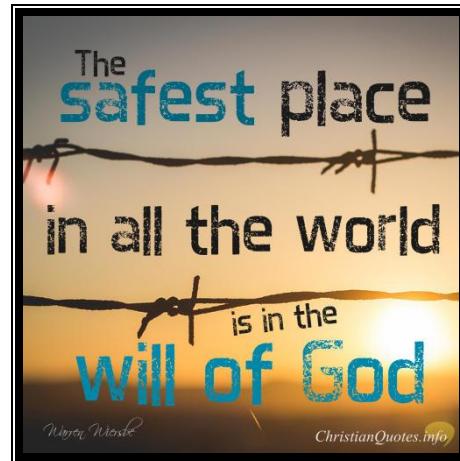


First: Baptists believe that the Scriptures teach that **sanctification** is the process by which, according to the **will of God**, we are made partakers of **His holiness**.

In this first statement concerning **sanctification**, we learn three things:

- 1) Sanctification is a process,
- 2) Sanctification is the will of God, and
- 3) Sanctification enables us to be made partakers of His holiness.

Sanctification is the will of God



The focus of our previous study was that “**sanctification is a process.**” **Sanctification** is an ongoing work in the heart, the mind, and the life of the believer whereby the believer’s life is transformed in conformity to with his/her position in Christ through the **transforming power** of the Holy Spirit. With sanctification, “the Holy Spirit works internally in the life of the believer, witnessing to the truth and countering the effects of sin so the inherent meaning of the Bible can be seen.”² “While **justification** is an instantaneous act giving the individual a righteous standing before God, **sanctification**

² Millard Erickson, *Christian Theology*

is a process making the person holy or good.”³ Not at one time, but progressively over time, the Spirit of God enables the believer to understand the thoughts of God, **to know** and **comprehend** the things freely given to them by God through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (**I Cor. 2:6-16**), and to live morally in the will of God, no longer governed by the desires of the flesh (**Gal. 5:16-26**). Prayerfully, each of us who are in Christ, are experiencing **sanctification**...that each of us are being transformed through the power of the Holy Spirit to have conduct that is consistent with our new position in Christ. In this study, the focus is understanding that **sanctification is the will of God** for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Question: What causes believers to be certain that **sanctification is the will of God** for all who are in Christ Jesus?

Answer: Believers can be certain that **sanctification is the will of God** by the many passages of Scripture that reference the work of the Spirit in a believer’s life.

³ Ibid.,

“A Life in the Spirit”



1. Through the sacrifice of Christ, the requirement of the law (death for sin) is fulfilled in us, _____ to the Spirit (Rom. 8:3-4).

“For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God *did*: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and *as an offering* for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,⁴ so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us **who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.**”

2. The mind that is set on _____, but the mind set **on the Spirit** is _____ (Rom. 8:6).

“For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the **Spirit is life** and peace,”

3. The mind that is **set on the flesh** _____ . The mind **set on the Spirit** is able _____ (Rom. 8:7-8).

“For the mind set on the **flesh** is **death**, but the mind set on **the Spirit is life and peace**,⁷ because the mind set on the flesh is **hostile** toward God; for it **does not subject itself** to the law of God, for it is **not even able to do so**,⁸ and those who are in the flesh **cannot please God**.”

4. The **Spirit of God indwells believers so they can walk according to the Spirit and by the Spirit** _____ (Rom. 8:12-13).

So then, brothers *and sisters*, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you are living in accord with the flesh, you are going to die; but if **by the Spirit** you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live (8:12-13).

5. Walking or living **by the Spirit of God**, enables believers to live not _____ (Gal. 5:16-24).

But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

¹⁷For the desire of the flesh is against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, in order to keep you from doing whatever you want. ¹⁸But if you are **led by the Spirit**, you are not under the Law. ¹⁹**Now the deeds of the flesh** are evident, which are: sexual immorality, impurity, indecent behavior, ²⁰idolatry, witchcraft, hostilities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, ²¹envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴Now those who belong to Christ Jesus crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

6. Believers have been chosen for salvation _____ by the Spirit (2 Thess. 2:13-15).

“But we should always give thanks to God for you, brothers *and sisters* beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. ¹⁴It was for this He called you

through our gospel, that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.¹⁵ So then, brothers *and sisters*, stand firm and hold on to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word *of mouth* or by letter from us.”

7. Sanctification is _____ believers (**I Thess. 4:1-8**).

“Finally then, brothers *and sisters*, we request and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received *instruction* from us as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel *even* more.² For you know what instructions we gave you by *the authority of* the Lord Jesus.”

³ For this is the will of God, your **sanctification**; *that is*, that you abstain from sexual immorality; ⁴ that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, ⁵ not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; ⁶ *and* that no one violate the rights and take advantage of his brother *or sister* in the matter, because the Lord is *the* avenger in all these things, just as we also told you previously and solemnly warned *you*. ⁷ For God has not called us for impurity, but in **sanctification**. ⁸ Therefore, the one who rejects *this* is not rejecting man, but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.”

Point: Sanctification is God's will for everyone in Christ Jesus. God desires that every believer walk in purity, discern what they've received through the death and resurrection of Christ, and be led by the Spirit and not the desire of the flesh. God's will is for believers to manifest the fruits of the Spirit in their life. The indwelling Spirit is the undeniable proof that God's will is for believers to walk in sanctification, to progressively be transformed morally, spiritually, and relationally to be more like Christ.

Let's Share



Question: If questioned, who would testify that sanctification is occurring in your life...

- **that spiritually** you've grown to understand more of Who Christ is and what He has accomplished for us through His sacrificial death...

- **that morally** you've changed and no longer live governed by your flesh but rather led by the Spirit – some sins you don't engage in like you used to...
- **that relationally** you've changed – no longer having outbursts of anger, no longer living sexually immoral, no longer harboring unforgiveness, no longer being contentious, and causing strife...
- **that personally** you've changed – you worship the Lord, you testify about Christ, you live a life of prayer, you seek to obey Scripture, you serve in ministry, and you're committed to living for Jesus Christ...
- **that wholistically** you're being changed in accordance with God's will for your life as a believer in Jesus Christ...

Question: What 3 people would testify that sanctification is occurring in your life? In what ways would they you've changed to be more like Christ?

Sanctification is a Process

Sanctification is the will of God

Sanctification enables us to be made partakers of His holiness



After being delivered from their bondage in Egypt, Israel sang saying, “Who is like Thee among the gods, O Lord? Who is like Thee, majestic in **holiness**, awesome in praises, working wonders?” (Ex. 15:11). There is no one who can compare with the Lord, no one like the Lord in holiness, no one so distinct and separate and set apart from all others like the Lord. No one works wonders and is deserving of awesome praises like the Lord. His holiness is majestic, glorious, great...He is set apart from all...none can compare the Lord. God speaks in holiness...what God promises He will do, God does (Ps. 60:6-8). God speaks in holiness, in truthfulness, with integrity, without sin – without lying. God does not lie (Ps. 89:35; 108:7; Amos 4:2). God’s testimonies, all that He

has declared is fully trustworthy, reliable, and believable because of **God's holiness (Ps. 93:5)**. Scripture not only declares God's holiness, but also, **that holiness** would characterize God's people.

Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist, filled with the Holy Spirit, prophesied saying,

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited us and accomplished redemption for His people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of David His servant as He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from of old...to show mercy toward our fathers, and to remember His holy covenant...to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve His without fear, **in holiness and righteousness before Him all our days**” (**Lk. 1:67-75**).

The Apostle Paul testified that he and those with him conducted themselves in holiness towards the Corinthian believers, that is with godly sincerity. He wrote,

“For our proud confidence is this: the testimony of our conscience, that in holiness and godly sincerity, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we

have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially toward you" (2 Cor. 1:12).

After commanding the Corinthian believers saying,

"Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God..." (2 Cor. 6:14-16)

Paul then wrote,

"Therefore, having these promises beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting **holiness in the fear of God**" (2 Cor. 7:1).

Writing to the Saints in Thessalonica, Paul again expressed his concern about the Saints exhibiting **holiness**, when he wrote,

“Now may our God and Father Himself and Jesus our Lord direct our way to you; ¹² and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also *do* for you; ¹³ so that He may establish your hearts without blame **in holiness** before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints” (**I Thess. 3:11-13**).

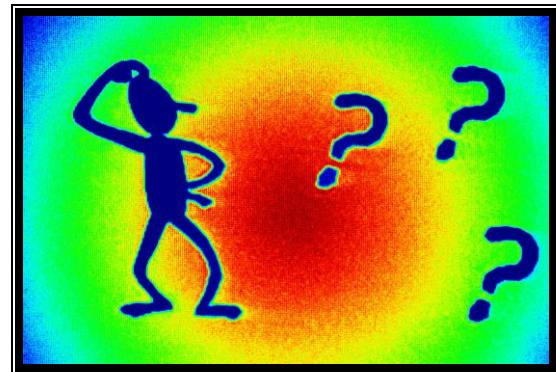
The Hebrew writer explained that God, our heavenly Father, disciplines us, who are His children, for the purpose that we might share His holiness.

“It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom *his* father does not discipline? ⁸ But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹ Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but **He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness**” (**Heb. 12:7-10**).

Point: God’s manifests His holiness by His integrity, His faithfulness, His truthfulness, and His righteousness. God is unlike any other...completely trustworthy, faithful, and

altogether reliable. He keeps every promise He makes. He is separate from sin, completely pure, altogether holy. There is no evil in God, no sin, no unrighteousness, no dishonesty, no wickedness. God's holiness is evident in His truthfulness and His conduct. God desires that His holiness be manifest in His people. Sanctification, the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of each believer, is so that they may partake in His holiness...that every believer be trustworthy, faithful, righteous, honest, godly, not evil, and separated from sin in word and deed. According to the Hebrew writer, **sanctification**, being transformed to morally, spiritually, relationally, personally – wholistically to become like Christ is viewed as essential if one ever expects to see the Lord: **“Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord” (Heb. 12:14).**

Let's Share



Fill in the blank: To keep being transformed to share the holiness of God, I must:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____