

SANCTIFICATION

Sanctification is the active process whereby a believer is made more holy by the Holy Spirit within him over time. It is the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in producing righteousness in the believer. Fruit of the Holy Spirit are visible signs of sanctification. Every believer undergoes sanctification. If there is no sanctification, no change in the believer, then this person does not have the Holy Spirit in him and he is not saved. There must be a change in the believer with ↑ good works and ↓ bad works. You see love for Jesus, love for neighbor, forgiveness of brother and ↓ sin over time. The believer does not practice sin as he used to. He does not seek to do sin. He runs to Jesus instead of sin. He undergoes conviction of sin by the Holy Spirit. He knows when he is sinning too much. He feels remorse for his sins and repents. He does not stay in sin. He does not live in sin. He does not fall into sin and stay there. He repents. He repents when he backslides. All Christians backslide, but then through the active working power of the Holy Spirit, they repent—they have the strength and desire to repent because the Holy Spirit is in them—Jesus is in them.

Justification is freedom from the penalty of sin. Sanctification is freedom from the power of sin. Sin no longer rules you, no longer is your lord—no longer has dominion over you. You are a slave of Jesus and no longer the slave of sin. You are bought for a price by Jesus at the slave market of sin.

Glorification occurs after you die and live in heaven. It is freedom from the presence of sin. We, like Jesus, are totally sinless—without sin completely. In Sanctification, God gives us the power of the Holy Spirit to say no to sin. There is a spiritual transformation—a metamorphosis of the believer (Metaneo) a complete turning to Jesus and at the same time, turning away from the lordship of sin.

The Holy Spirit makes us want to be more holy, makes us want not to sin, not to seek sin, not to live in sin, we want to change. We don't want to practice sin. We may still have the desire to live and practice our secret sin, but we don't act on it. This is the difference between a saved person and a person who thinks he is saved, but is not. The saved person repents from his secret sin. He may still have the desire for his sinful lifestyle, but he does not and no longer acts on it. Whereas, the false Christian who is not saved, refuses to repent, stays in rebellion and continues to practice his secret sin. He chooses his sin over Jesus. He loves his sin more than he loves Jesus. He refuses to submit to the Lordship of Christ and instead submits and surrenders to the lordship of his sin.

Also in sanctification, the true believer listens to the witness and testimony of the Holy Spirit spoken by other Christians guided by the Holy Spirit. The believer then changes his behavior. Of course, Scripture itself, which was written by the Holy Spirit causes the believer to change.

A true Christian suddenly notices that they are not the same person they used to be, they are born again. Don't you see it in your own life? Suddenly you are not the hater you used to be. You can't stay mad at someone, you forgive them and honestly don't know why (although you do know it is the work of the Holy Spirit and Jesus in you). You love when you normally would not love.

You give and lend and help others. You actually love your neighbor and again you don't know why in the worldly sense, but you understand why in the spiritual sense. You suddenly don't swear as much. You don't go drinking and drugging like you used to. You don't practice fornication and adultery like you used to. You can't completely explain it, but it just happens. Jesus broke the power of sin in our lives and we are led by the Spirit—we are no longer led by the flesh. In sanctification, we are set apart from the world to pursue righteousness, holiness and obedience to Christ. The nonbeliever in the world never changes. The believer in Christ does change and continues to change for the better. I tell you, a person who says he is saved and yet absolutely does not change, and keeps on sinning as much as he used to and sometimes more, is not saved. He is an apostate who falsely believes false doctrine that he does not have to repent.

Jesus continually preached repentance. His first message in ministry was repentance (Matt 4:17). His last message in ministry was repentance (Luke 24:46-48). The spirit of the true Christian is constantly renewed for the better—made more holy over time. The Holy Spirit constantly convicts you when you sin. You feel sorrow and remorse and you repent. Again, a believer can still have the desires of practicing sin but he does not act on them and certainly does not practice them. Scripture is real simple. It simply says what it says. People who practice sin and especially certain sins (1 Cor 6:9-11) → Hell. Scripture is black and white, yet false Christians think they can live in the gray. They make up their own rules, their own law. When instead, they should follow the law and commandments of Jesus Christ. If you truly love Jesus and have agape love for Jesus—sacrificial, selfless, giving love for Jesus, you will not practice sin. You don't want to hurt Jesus. You want to please Him. You don't fall away into sin and separate from Jesus, you instead get closer to Him over time and remain in relationship, in communion, in fellowship with Him. A true Christian says, "I love the Lord!"

We need to "read the red" (words of Jesus in the Bible) and "live in the red" (the blood of Christ and the words of Jesus) and "stay under the red"—under the blood of Jesus.

People who practice sin clearly → Hell and not Heaven. People who practice lawlessness and are workers of iniquity surely → Hell (Matt 7:13-22 & Luke 13:23-28).

Examine yourself:

do you practice sin?

do you refuse to repent of sin and from sin?

do you stay in sin?

do you live in sin?

do you have sin as your characteristic habitual lifestyle?

have you fallen into sin and refuse to repent of sin?

are you living in rebellion rather than living in Christ?

are you led by the flesh and not by the Holy Spirit?

is there no holiness in your life and all you see is sin?

is there no change, no transformation, no metamorphosis in your life?

If these questions apply to you, then you need to repent ASAP AFAP. You never know how long you have on earth. Don't just think you are saved—instead know you are saved! There must be repentance in your life. Jesus came to call sinners to repentance. "For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance." (Matt 9:13). "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matt 4:17). There must be repentance in your life. Paul says in Romans: "Shall we continue to sin? Certainly Not!"

Jesus says, "If you love Me, keep My commandments" (John 14:15) and also says, "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46).

Matt 7:21-23 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' (Note exclamation ! mark in Scripture).

Why take the chance? ... Repent instead, play it safe. Don't follow greasy grace—license to sin doctrine. It's too dangerous. Your spiritual life is at stake!