

# Overflow: Sanctification

Bethany Assembly of God

7.7.2024

**Central Proposition: You should cooperate with the Holy Spirit as He sanctifies you.**

## Introduction

There's something that begins when you become a student of Jesus and a child of God that is necessary, but can feel uncomfortable. It's called *Sanctification*. Sanctification is the process by which you are separated from what is evil and set apart to serve God. You could call sanctification "realized justification." Last week, Pastor Adam did an excellent job preaching justification: you can only be right with God through faith in Jesus Christ. God makes you clean before you can clean yourself up. You are really right with Him apart from your own ability to maintain good morality or right behavior. But Jesus has also come to take up residence in you through the Holy Spirit. And a person who trusts Jesus not only trusts Him to forgive but to lead. He is helping you become in your everyday life what God has already made you: holy and righteous. Sanctification is the lifelong process by which the Holy Spirit directs you to become righteous in thought, attitude, word, and action. Let's consider several movements of sanctification in the life of a student of Jesus.

**1. You can consider yourself dead to sin.** See Romans 6:4-11.

Again, justification is something that Jesus has done for you regardless of your own moral ability. Justification is by faith and so is sanctification. Baptism is a very appropriate illustration: we've been joined with Christ in death, but that means that we are joined with Him in resurrection too. Your old self has been crucified with Jesus. You've been baptized into Jesus' death and buried with Him. That person that was enslaved to sin died. Our actions begin in our thoughts, so if you start thinking the truth, that you are free in Jesus, it will influence your behavior. You will need to renew your mind through God's Word.

**2. You can keep the doors open.** See Psalm 25:4-5; Revelation 3:17-20.

The next move of sanctification is to keep the doors of your life open to the Holy Spirit. The believer who is full of faith in the grace of God desires the Holy Spirit to enter and search. This person has an attitude of repentance: an ongoing desire to turn away from the things that displease God. On the contrary, too often people adopt a mindset of shame or comfort. Like someone trying to hide the mess of their home, we try to hide the mess of our lives. Christians will often avoid sanctification because they don't like looking at their own shortcomings, much less the thought that a perfectly Holy God looks at their shortcomings. Don't let shame or comfort make you complacent to the sanctifying work of God.

**3. You can recognize corporate sin.**

I say "corporate sin" in the sense that there are certain values that get embedded in culture and society of which Christians are often unaware and sanctification includes separating us from those values and setting us apart for God's purposes and His ways. The difficulty with corporate sin is that it is hard to discern. It's what you've always assumed is right and what culture subtly teaches is right. But then the Holy Spirit takes up residence in your life and starts shining the light of the Gospel on that corporate sin in which you've been complicit.

## Conclusion

Sanctification is the process by which holiness is realized practically in your life. It is ongoing as long as you are alive. It is not a religious pursuit; it's a relationship. You believe the Holy Spirit when He says you are a child of God, free from sin and so, you start to consider yourself dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

You trust Him enough to keep the doors open so much so, that even when He comes knocking on doors that society says are good and He wants repentance, you trust Him to work there too. It's not just your behaviors that are modified, but your heart. You begin to desire to do God's will.