

ARTICLE 6

We believe in sanctification subsequent to the new birth, through faith in the blood of Christ; through the Word, and by the Holy Ghost.

ARTICLE 7

We believe holiness to be God's standard of living for His people.

1. The Meaning of Sanctification

- a. The Greek verb for "sanctify" (*hagiazō*) means "to make holy, set apart, dedicate, or purify."**

Scripture references: 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 2 Corinthians 7:1; Hebrews 9:14

- b. Sanctification, though distinct from and subsequent to the new birth, begins at the beginning of the Christian experience of salvation.**

Scripture references: 1 Peter 1:15-16; Hebrews 12:1; Philippians 1:9-11; 2 Peter 3:11-13; Ephesians 5:8, 10-11

2. Sanctification, A Work of God

- a. In the Bible, sanctification is something God does.**

Scripture references: 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Titus 2:13-14; John 17:17; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 1 John 1:9

- (1) Sanctification through Christ**

- (2) Sanctification through the Word of God**

- (3) Sanctification through the guidance of the Holy Spirit**

- b. The Holy Spirit is in believers, always working to conform their thoughts, speech, and actions, so that they become more and more like Jesus Christ.**

Scripture references:

Walking with the Spirit—Galatians 5:16; Ephesians 5:2

God's forgiveness and instruction—Luke 11:2-4; 1 John 1:9; 2:1

- (1) **As we walk with the Holy Spirit, He cleanses and transforms our lives daily.**

- (2) **God in His grace forgives our shortcomings and teaches us through our weaknesses.**

3. Sanctification, Also a Task of God's People

- a. The process of putting sanctification into action is both the work of God and the work of His people.**

Scripture references: Exodus 31:13; 19:5; Numbers 11:18; Leviticus 20:26; Hebrews 12:14;

Romans 12:1-2; Titus 2:11-12; John 17:6-26; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; Philippians 2:15

- (1) **With the Holy Spirit's guidance, we are to put sanctification into action.**

- (2) **We are to separate our selves from wrongdoing and to commit ourselves to pursuing the things of God.**

- b. It is through a disciplined life that the grace of God is allowed to continue working in our life, so that we may experience spiritual growth.**

Scripture references: Philippians 2:12-13; Luke 9:23; Romans 8:13; Colossians 3:5, 12-14;

Hebrews 12:1-2; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

- (1) **The strength to live the disciplined Christian life is a gift directly from God.**

- (2) **Every aspect of our being—soul, spirit, and body—is to be submitted to God for Him to conform us to the likeness of Christ.**

Discussion

Meaning of Sanctification

- 1) What are the main aspects of sanctification?
- 2) When does sanctification in a person's life begin?

Sanctification, A Work of God

- 3) Explain how all members of the Godhead are involved in sanctification.
- 4) Whenever we give in to temptations or make mistakes in life, what do we need to do?

Sanctification, Also a Task of God's People

- 5) What is our task in sanctification?
- 6) How do we get the strength to live the disciplined Christian life?

Prayer

Blessed Holy Spirit, we thank You for Your powerful presence in our lives.

Please nourish and sustain our hearts that we may have a closer walk with our Lord.

Keep us from all activities that are not pleasing to You, and help us to focus our minds on You, rather than on things that are not pleasing to You.

Strengthen us against the assaults of Satan and grant us power to live in humility and obedience.

Above all things, we want to love You and others. We want to allow You to lead us, so that You may produce Your fruit in us and we may live in righteousness and true holiness.

Amen.

Resources for Additional Study

Agnew, Milton S. *Transformed Christians: New Testament Messages on Holy Living*. Kansas City, Mo.: Beacon Hill Press, 1974.

Arrington, French L. *Christian Doctrine: A Pentecostal Perspective*, Vol. 2. Cleveland, Tenn.: Pathway, 1992; pp. 229-247

Coppedge, Allan. *Portraits of God: A Biblical Theology of Holiness*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2001.

Foster, Richard J. *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1988, 1978.

Hauerwas, Stanley. *Sanctify Them in the Truth: Holiness Exemplified*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998.