

Faith Christian Fellowship
October 18, 2015
Strong Foundations: Sanctification

♥ The term "sanctification" or "holiness" and the concept of right living are much misunderstood

- To sanctify = Hagiazō (gr) Also translated "to make holy." It meant to be set apart for the use of the gods. The pagan worshipper was believed to acquire the character of the god he worshipped. At Corinth they had "sanctified" prostitutes.
- The Bible usage reflects this: to set apart a person or a thing for the use of God with the result that the nature is changed and this change is reflected in the use. It is a state of being which will be reflected in the actions or, more precisely, the use. Holy ground - Exodus 3:5 / Holy oil - Exodus 37:29 / Holy kiss - Romans 16:16
- Unger: The pure, loving nature of God, separate from evil, aggressively seeking to universalize itself; that this character inheres in places, times and institutions intimately associated with worship, and that it is to characterize human beings who have entered into personal relations with God.

♥ Differing views of "sanctification"

- Liturgical – Baptism / ritual sanctifies and purifies. Eliminates the need for personal faith and relationship with God.
- Calvinist - We remain sinful and corrupt even in regeneration, "I'm just a sinner saved by grace" "all of us sin every day." "Christians aren't perfect, just forgiven." Leads to a defeatist attitude, denying the victory that is in Jesus. Notice 1 John 2:1-6 so we won't sin and we should walk like Jesus.
- Holiness – Those who believe in the ability to achieve a state of sinless perfection that comes by a second work of the Holy Spirit in us. Some go so far as to claim that sin is evidence of a lack of salvation. Others say that when we sin as Christians we must be born again, again. This often leads to a very legalistic, outward understanding of sanctification. Dress codes and standards for jewelry, make-up, etc. are not uncommon in these groups.

♥ We believe in the doctrine of sanctification as a definite, yet progressive work of grace, commencing at the time of regeneration and continuing until the consummation of salvation at Christ's return. The key: past, present, and future tense of salvation.

➤ **We have been saved** by grace through faith.

Ephesians 2:4-9

➤ **We are being saved.** Philippians 2:12

➤ **We shall be saved.** Romans 5:9-10

➤ **We are sanctified:** At our profession of faith in Christ we are set apart as a holy instrument of God. The blood of Christ separates us from the world and our nature is changed to reflect His holy person. Hebrews 10:10 / Hebrews 13:2 / Colossians 1:13 / Ephesians 4:24

- He will now accompany us wherever we go

- Exodus 33:14-16. The Presence separates us.

- 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 / Hebrews 13:5 He will never leave you!

➤ **We are being sanctified** - becoming more like Him every day. 1 Thessalonians 5:23 / 1 Peter 2:1-3 We are called to life of feeding on the Word of God in order to grow.

- Titus 2:10-13 Grace is teaching us.

- Hebrews 12:10 /by the increasing realization of a conscience.

- By the Word of God. 2 Timothy 3:16 / John 17:17

- 2 Corinthians 3:18 The Spirit and the Word work together in our lives to transform us into the image of Christ. Philippians 2:12-14

➤ **We will be sanctified** when He returns because we will see Him as He is. 1 John 3:1-3

➤ Philippians 3:13-15 The one thing I am called to do is to press on toward Him. Sanctification is a direction.

➤ 1 Cor 6:19-20 The secret to ongoing growth in sanctification is the daily growth in awareness of the Person and Presence of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

May God himself, the God who makes everything holy and whole, make you holy and whole, put you together--spirit, soul, and body--and keep you fit for the coming of our Master, Jesus Christ. The One who called you is completely dependable. If he said it, he'll do it!

1Thessalonians 5:23-24