

# SANCTIFICATION

By Pastor Francis Williams

## I. DEFINITION:

SANCTIFICATION is “the work of God’s free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled to more and more to die unto sin and live unto righteousness” (Westminster Catechism)

SANCTIFICATION: is a progressive work of God and man that makes us more and more free from sin and like Christ in our actual lives (Wayne Grudem).

II. TERMINOLOGY: In the New Testament, the word “sanctification” is translated from the Greek verb “hagiazō” which means to consecrate, dedicate, sanctify, to be holy. To sanctify is to “set apart” someone or something from common use to God. When something is sanctified, it becomes God’s possession. The noun “saint” is derived from the same Greek word *hagiazō*. A Christian is a saint in that she/he has been “sanctified,” “set apart” or “consecrated” for God’s use (Rom. 1:7; 1Cor.1:2; 6:1; 2Cor. 1:1; Eph. 1:1; Phil. 1:1; Col. 3:12).

## III. SANCTIFICATION IS A DIVINE ACT (God’s work alone).

Those who are justified in Christ, are at the same time definitively sanctified by the work of the Holy Spirit. This is also called *definitive sanctification*. We have already died to sin and have been constituted holy. We are transferred from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light (Acts 20:32; Rom. 15:16; 1Cor. 1:2, 30; Col. 1:13-14; 1Thess. 5:23; 2Thess. 2:13; 1Pet. 1:2).

## IV. SANCTIFICATION IS A DIVINE-HUMAN PROCESS (We cooperate with God).

Sanctification is also a process which continues throughout our lifetime. Through this process, our *moral* condition is brought to conformity with our *legal* status before God (Rom. 5:1-2; 6:1-11; 1Thess. 4:3). This process is also known as *progressive sanctification*, which involves our cooperation with God. Therefore, with fear and trembling, we work out our salvation as God works in us (Rom. 1-2; 6:1-11; Philp. 2:12-13; 1Jn. 3:1-3).

## V. SANCTIFICATION IS COMPLETED AT DEATH

Because there is sin that still remains in our hearts even though we have become Christians, our sanctification cannot be entirely completed in this life (Phil. 3:21; 1Cor. 15:23; 1Cor. 15:49).

May the Spirit of God enable His people to become more like Jesus for the glory of God