

Statement on Sanctification Options January 2020

Note: These five alternatives will form the basis for our Statement of Faith conversation

- A. Sanctification is that experience wherein the believer is wholly separated unto God, enabled to live a life of holiness and render effective service through the infilling of the Holy Spirit. The conditions for being filled with the Holy Spirit are death to the self-life and entire surrender in complete dedication to God. This is an experience wrought in the life subsequent to conversion and is followed by a consistent walk, growth in grace, and manifestation of the fruit of the Spirit.
- B. The Holy Spirit has been given to every believer to do the sanctifying work of Jesus in us. While this work begins at conversion, the Spirit who lives in us wants to take us into a deeper experience of the life of Jesus so that we are given greater power to live more fully in victory over sin and self; to walk in increasing Christlikeness; and to serve more effectively as we seek to carry out the mission of Jesus. This deeper work begins as we surrender to the fullness of the Spirit. This surrender typically occurs at a decisive point in time following conversion.
- C. Jesus is our Sanctifier, setting us apart for Himself as we decisively renounce sin, acknowledge our inability to be holy and yield to the control of the Holy Spirit. The character and ministry of Jesus are available to us as His Spirit fills us. We are positionally sanctified at conversion and progressively experience the life of Christ within us as we live in constant dependence upon Him.
- D. We cannot be holy people in our own strength. A decisive break with the enslaving power of sin and union with Christ in His resurrection power are available to us. Fully yielding to the Holy Spirit allows the life of Christ to operate in us for holy living and effective service. Welcoming the fullness of the Spirit is the continuous experience made available to us through Christ our Sanctifier who transforms us into His likeness.
- E. God calls His People to be holy. This is possible only on the basis of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as He comes to us through the indwelling Holy Spirit. Sanctification is a unique and individual process by which the believer seeks to deny sin and selfish desires and pursue holiness by actively yielding in faith to the Holy Spirit's enabling power. This process begins with a decisive turning point in the believer's life that may occur for some at the initial point of salvation [i.e. justification] or for others at a point subsequent to salvation and becomes an ongoing process toward Christlikeness.