

Doctrine



*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path...
The entrance of Your words gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple. Psalm 119:105,130*

Sanctification

Thus says the Lord: "Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; then you will find rest for your souls." Jeremiah 6:16

THEOLOGY

Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, through Jesus Christ alone
(*Ephesians 2:8, Romans 5:1-2,9*).

We believe in the indwelling of the Holy Spirit as the assurance of salvation
(*Titus 3:5, Ephesians 1:13-14*).

DOCTRINE

Calvary Old Path believes that part of the work of the Holy Spirit is the regeneration and sanctification of the saints for the work of the ministry.

For this booklet, we'll be examining how our Theology guides the life of the believer, and what occurs after the initial event of salvation which is also called regeneration.

The word **Regeneration** comes from the Greek word **Palingenesia**, meaning palin (again) and genesis (birth).

Regeneration begins the process of sanctification wherein we become the people God intends us to be.

The word **Sanctification** comes from the Greek word, **Hagiasmos** meaning holiness or a separation.

Sanctification is the process of the saints (believers) being sanctified or set apart and made holy.

To explain our beliefs regarding regeneration and sanctification we will be covering these areas.

1. Regeneration (Born Again)
2. Sanctification (Set Apart and Made holy)
3. Growing in Sanctification (Bearing Good Fruit)
4. Complete Sanctification (Eternal Transformation)
5. Differing Views

Regeneration (Born Again)

In *John 3:3* the need for Regeneration, being born again, is made very clear. Jesus tells us, “*unless one is **born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*”

These words were spoken to Nicodemus. He was a Pharisee, a ruler of the Jews living at the time of Jesus was on earth. The conversation Nicodemus had with Jesus is recorded in *John 3:1-21*. From what we see later in John’s gospel, Nicodemus became a follower of Jesus as he was with Joseph of Arimathea to take Jesus to His burial (*John 19:39*).

After hearing that he *had to be born again* Nicodemus asked Him, “*How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born again?*” Jesus answered, “*...unless one is born of water and the spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the spirit is spirit.*”

Then He says again, “*you must be born again.*” Nicodemus then says, “*how can these things be?*” Within Jesus’ answer He says, “*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*”

Man, in his natural state, is dead in his sin nature until he is made alive (regenerated/born again) by the Holy Spirit. This happens when he places his faith in Christ (*Romans 5:23, Ephesians 2:1, 2 Corinthians 5:17*).

Titus 3:5 explains it like this, “*not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of **regeneration** and renewing of the Holy Spirit.*”

Sanctification (Set Apart and Holy)

Being sanctified separates us from a sinful world. Through sanctification we become dedicated to serving God. Salvation is the beginning, but sanctification is a lifelong process. As we grow in our knowledge of Him, we will see the evidence of sanctification as The Holy Spirit works in our lives.

The word **saint** comes from the Greek word **hagios**, which means “consecrated to God, holy, sacred.” All Christians are sanctified ones and considered saints.

*“To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are **sanctified** in Christ Jesus, called to be **saints**, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord...” (1 Corinthians 1:2).*

In *John 17*, Jesus not only prays for His disciples at the time he was living on earth but for all believers ever since. That includes us!

“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I **sanctify** Myself, that they also may be **sanctified** by the truth. I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;” (John 17:17-20).

He is praying that they (we) may be set apart from this world by the Word of God which is given to us in the Bible. What are we set apart for? We are to go into the world, to the lost, with the goal of leading them to salvation through Christ. When we read that Jesus sanctified Himself it means He set Himself apart as a sacrifice for the sins of the world.

Growing in Sanctification (Bearing Good Fruit)

Sanctification does not stop with salvation, but rather it is a progression that continues in a Christian's life. As believers grow in their relationship with the Lord, their behavior should change to be more conformed to what God desires.

It is important to keep in mind that even though we have been set apart as God's children, we will continue to do battle with sin. Paul describes this inner struggle in *Galatians 5:17*: “*For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things you wish.*” While we are in the flesh, we will always struggle with a sin nature.

By the Holy Spirit we are transformed and sanctified. He convicts us in areas of our life that need to change. A continuing sanctification takes place and helps us to grow in holiness. We begin to view the world differently and start integrating biblical truths into our lives.

In *Romans 12:2* we read, “*And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*”

2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us, “*therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*”

Christians become increasingly Christlike, as the "fruit of the Spirit" is progressively formed in them (*2 Corinthians 3:18, Galatians 4:19, Colossians 3:10*). "Fruit" simply means evidence, or what is produced in the life of the believer. It is what naturally comes from the life of a person who is being led by God.

In *John 15:5* Jesus says, “*I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.*”

Our former selves are being stripped away as we are changed to be able to do the work that God has planned for each of us. The goal is to be equipped to walk rightly before Him and to spread the good news. (Gospel)

In *Matthew 28:19-20*, soon before He ascended to heaven, Jesus instructed His apostles to “*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*” This is called “The Great Commission” and it applies to all disciples of Christ. Through sanctification by the Holy Spirit, we are able to be used by God to do our part in fulfilling “The Great Commission.”

Complete Sanctification (Eternal Transformation)

It is true that we should desire complete sanctification, but it is not possible until we are delivered from this sinful world.

John makes it clear that we will never be totally free from sin in this life. In *1 John 1:8* John writes, “*If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*” Believers on earth will continue to sin and need forgiveness (*1 John 1:9*).

“*For by one offering He has **perfected forever** those who are being **sanctified***” (*Hebrews 10:14*).

Since nothing unclean can enter heaven (*Revelation 21:27*), we must be made perfect before entering into it (*1 Corinthians 15:42-49*). The sanctification of the whole person (body, soul, and spirit) will finally be complete when we receive glorified bodies (*Philippians 3:21*).

As believers, we can identify with Paul’s words in *Philippians 3:12* and *Hebrews 12:1*: “*Not that I have already attained, or am already **perfected**; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.*”

“...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.”

Are There differing views?

As with most topics of discussion, there are differing views. In this case, it is the matter of the amount of sin that remains in the life of the believer. It is best to recap what we have discussed, in order, for the life of the believer.

1. We are saved. This is where it all begins, and we are saved when we are cleansed from our sin and are born again.
2. From that time a separation from who were begins to take place. As we learn more about Jesus and His teaching, we grow and mature spiritually. We have a relationship with God as revealed by the Holy Spirit. With that knowledge comes those changes.
3. We wait for our gathering together with God, in the eternal sense, when all temporary things have come to a close and we are with Him. Most people would simply call this heaven.

Some would argue that there is to be no sin present in the life of the believer, after they have been saved. We believe we have provided a sufficient amount of verses in this paper to remove any doubt that though a person is saved, there are those times that we compromise and fall short of God's will.

We won't attempt to give the reasons for why some believe this, we simply state our position.

We must strive to be the changed people, as we have discussed. If we understand this truth, then the closer we will walk with God, in obedience to Him, and the richer and more complete our relationship to Him becomes. Imagine if it could be said of any man or woman, that we are pleasing to God.

Paul states quite well the whole matter of discussion in this paper when He says to the church at Colossi:

For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; ¹⁰ that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; (Colossians 1:9-11).

We would also like to make it clear that although sin is the ever-present challenge to the believer and sin will be a part of the life between here and heaven, it is not something to which we are to become indifferent. It is something about which we desire to see less and less of, as it hinders our walk with God.

We are never to be numb to sin, or its effects. Paul addresses this idea in the Epistle of Romans.

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?” (Romans 6:1-2)

“For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!” (Romans 6:14-15).

In both of these rhetorical questions there is an emphatic, “certainly not!” We have been forgiven, as the sacrifice of Jesus was 2000 years ago. We have been given a new life here and an eternal one which we await. While we are on this journey to that final destination, we are to be a changed people. The Apostle Peter states:

“⁹ But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.” (1 Peter 2:9-10)

Three Tenses of Salvation			
Phase	<u>Justification</u>	Sanctification	Glorification
Tense	Past	Present	Future
Saved from sin's:	Penalty	Power	Presence
Scripture	<u>Eph 2:8-9;</u> <u>Titus 3:5</u>	Philip 2:12	Rom 5:10

Image taken from Dr. Andy Woods- Sugarland Bible Church



On the Path Discernment Ministry

Discernment is always mentioned in scripture in a favorable light. Discernment was promoted as a way to avoid error and cause the believer to continually be seeking and watching with vigilance. Accordingly, these materials are provided for you in order to assist you in growing in your knowledge and understanding of God's Word. We have taken great care to give a thorough and expansive explanation of the positions of the church.

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These booklets are provided to explain Old Path's teachings on topics of theology and doctrine. Should you have questions on doctrinal matters or would like further clarity on these positions, you can email us and we will assist you by researching the needed matters. However, we do not provide these booklets with the intention of debating.