

# **The Doctrine of Spiritual Transformation**

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## I. Introduction.

A. Everybody has a system of belief by which they operate. The challenge for us is bringing our system of belief in line with the Scriptures.

B. We can use Scripture knowledge to become proud and argumentative or to grow in a more godly life. (1 Corinthians 8:1; Titus 1:1)

C. Spiritual transformation is normally called sanctification. Justification will always be accompanied by sanctification. Justification means that we have been declared righteous in God's sight.

D. Sanctification is Christian growth that is continual over a life time.

A. To sanctify means to set apart.

## II. Definitive sanctification is the Holy Spirit acting alone to set us apart for God. (1 Corinthians 6:19; Ezekiel 36:26-27)

A. We are righteous in our standing before God, we are sanctified in our state before God and we are children in our status before God.

1. Our standing is based on Christ's performance.

2. Our state has changed in Christ because we have been bought with a price.

3. Our state is different because we have been given a new heart.

## III. We should never evaluate our acceptance before God on the basis of our performance.

A. It is based on the performance of Christ.

B. It should motivate us towards personal righteousness.

## IV. Progressive sanctification.

A. Transformation is a good term for sanctification.

1. It is Scriptural. (Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 3:18)

2. It is more than separation from sin--it is putting on the new self. (Ephesians 4:22)

3. It involves a real change from the inside out. (2 Corinthians 3:18)

B. We should have an agenda about spiritual transformation. (Hebrews 13:21)

C. The Holy Spirit shines light into our lives and causes us to see who we really are.

1. The Spirit causes us to see Scripture and the need to apply it.
2. Then he creates a desire to be changed.
3. He uses...
  - a. The Scriptures. (Romans 12:2; Psalm 1:1-2)
  - b. Prayer. (Colossians 1:9-12)
  - c. Circumstances of all kinds. (Philippians 4:11-12)
  - d. Fellowship. (Hebrews 12:4-11)

V. Conclusion.

VI. Questions and answers.

**Application questions:**

1. In what ways does God sanctify us?

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2. What is the relationship between sanctification and God's acceptance of us?

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3. What can we do to grow in our sanctification? Explain.

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