



## Doctrine 10: Holiness

*We believe it is the privilege of all believers to be wholly sanctified, and that their whole spirit and soul and body may be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

### Big ideas

- **Sanctification is the process of becoming more like Christ in every part of our life**
- **The Holy Spirit works within us to make us more like Jesus – to be holy**
- **Sanctification is a life changing and ongoing process**

“*Be holy, because I am holy*”  
(1 Peter 1:16).

Sanctification describes the process by which God's people are made holy and set apart for God's purposes. As we grow as Christians, we aim to become more and more like Christ in our character. This is the privilege of all believers and not just for some. It also affects the whole of our lives. There is nothing in our lives that is not touched by the Spirit and his work of holiness.

The cross is at the heart of holiness. Scripture calls us to die to sin and the old self. As we identify with Christ in his death, we understand that our old self died with him. At the same time, “if we died with Christ, we believe that we also live with him” (Romans 6:1–14). We share in his death and his resurrection.

“*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone and the new has come*”  
(2 Corinthians 5:17).

The Holy Spirit is the key that makes holy living possible. Jesus overcame temptation through the power of the Spirit (Luke 4:1–14). Through the same Spirit, we also have victory over sin and are being transformed to be like Christ.

“*Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit*”  
(2 Corinthians 3:17–18).



Sanctification can take place through times of crisis and is also an ongoing process. Sometimes the Spirit brings us to a crossroads where we are empowered to make radical changes of direction in our lives. We may be challenged about an area of sin in our life and be convicted to repent. It may be a decisive turning point.

At the same time, sanctification is a lifelong and ongoing process. As we seek to follow Jesus, pray, serve, read his word and meet with his people, the Spirit changes us. We are changed in the way we see God, ourselves and others.

## Putting belief into practice

*I will be a faithful steward of my time and gifts, my money and possessions, my body, my mind and my spirit, knowing that I am accountable to God.*

### Discuss

- What behaviours does a soldier promise to put off and put on?
- How can we help one another to continue to grow in holiness?

### Put off sin, put on holiness

Read Colossians 3:1–17 together. List the things we are called to put to death or put off and those things we are called to put on.

Put to death therefore whatever belongs to your earthly nature . . . (v.5)

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with . . . (v.12)