We Believe

The Foundations of our Faith

EVERY NATION
CHURCH • PENANG

IKEA®





Sanctification

A lifelong, grace-fueled process, sometimes painful but always purposeful.



The Doctrine Of Sanctification

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Sanctification

We believe that sanctification is the process, **beginning at regeneration**, whereby God conforms his people to the image of Christ through his Word and Spirit. By grace, Christians **grow in holiness and love for God and others throughout their lives** as they submit to Jesus, obey God's word, and walk by the Spirit in fellowship with other disciples.

#1 God Conforms Believers to the Image of Christ

For those God foreknew he also predestined **to be conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

Romans 8:29

Romans 8:29 ……to be conformed ……

“Conformed” *(Greek: “summorphos”)* means to be shaped together with, sharing the same form.

God’s goal is not just heaven for you, **but heaven in you**, transforming your character, your affections, your responses, and your love to look like Jesus.

2 Corinthians 3:18: 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.

- **"Are being transformed"** — present tense, continuous action. **This is not a one-time event**. It's happening right now.

- **"Which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit"** — the **agent of transformation is the Holy Spirit**. God is in charge, not you.

Sanctification is first and foremost **God's work in you**.

#2 Believers Grow in Sanctification Throughout Their Lives

Sanctification is a **lifelong**, ongoing transformation.

12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 13 Brothers and sisters, **I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it**. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:12-14

Sanctification is lifelong. Don't despise the process.

#3 Believers Grow in Sanctification by Grace

8 For it is **by grace you have been saved**,
through faith and this is not from yourselves, it is
the gift of God 9 not by works, so that no one
can boast.

Ephesians 2:8–9

You are sanctified by the same grace that saved you.

12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 **for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill His good purpose**.

Philippians 2:12–13

Your obedience in sanctification is grace-empowered obedience. You are not earning God's love but responding to it.



Sanctification by grace. You pedal; God holds.

#4 Believers Grow in Sanctification with Other Believers

Sanctification is designed by God to happen in community.

24 And let us consider how we may **spur one another** on toward love and good deeds, 25 **not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another** and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24–25



You don’t grow alone.

Sanctification is a team sport.

#5 Believers Grow in Sanctification Through Spiritual Disciplines

7 Have nothing to do with godless myths and old
wives’ tales; rather, **train yourself to be godly**.
8 For physical training is of some value, but
godliness has value for all things, holding
promise for both the present life and the life to
come.

1 Timothy 4:7–8

Spiritual Disciplines

Discipline	What It Does	Key Scripture
Prayer	Aligns your heart with God's will	Philippians 4:6–7
Scripture Reading	Renews your mind	Romans 12:2
Fasting	Strengthens your dependence on God	Matthew 6:16–18
Worship	Reorients your affections	Psalm 63:1–3
Giving	Loosens the grip of materialism	2 Corinthians 9:7
Sabbath Rest	Trusts God with your time	Hebrews 4:9–10



Spiritual Discipline

Spiritual disciplines don’t earn grace. They are not spiritual currency. They are channels through which God’s grace flows.

We don't read our Bible to make God love us more. We read our Bible because God already loves us, and His Word is how He speaks to us.

Sanctification is not optional; it is God's purpose for every believer.

SANCTIFICATION



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