

Sanctification: Holy Spirit's Role

In contrast to the Old Testament where God designates time, space, objects and people as holy, the New Testament places a more personal focus of holiness: on Jesus Christ and the people whom the Holy Spirit is bestowed.

1. Examine these verses and share your observation of how the Holy Spirit is an agent of sanctification and sets Believers apart for God.

But when the kindness and affection of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not by works which we did in righteousness, but according to His mercy, through the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, (Tit 3:4-6, LSB)

Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to do My judgments. (Ezek 36:26-27, LSB)

And because you are sons, God sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God. (Gal 4:6-7, LSB)

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the depths graciously given to us by God, of which depths we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual depths with spiritual words. But a natural man does not accept the depths of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually examined. (1 Cor 2:12-14, LSB)

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed us and gave the pledge of the Spirit in our hearts. (2 Cor 1:21-22, LSB)

2. Carefully observe how the Holy Spirit helps the Believer live a sanctified life devoted and dedicated to God. What do you see when a Believer cooperates with the Holy Spirit?

So then, brothers, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die, but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the practices of the body, you will live. For as many as are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. (Rom 8:12-14, LSB)

But I say, walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you do not do the things that you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law. (Gal 5:16-23, LSB)

And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. (Rom 8:26-27, LSB)

But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for what is profitable. For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to someone else faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, and to another the workings of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to someone else various kinds of tongues, and to another the translation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills. For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. For also by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. For also the body is not one member, but many. (1 Cor 12:7-14, LSB)

Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, fulfill my joy, that you think the same way, by maintaining the same love, being united in spirit, thinking on one purpose, doing nothing from selfish ambition or vain glory, but with humility of mind regarding one another as more important than yourselves, not merely looking out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. (Phil 2:1-4, LSB)

3. Fill out the Chart and list what you learned about the Holy Spirit.

	God	Jesus Christ	Holy Spirit
Legal Means	Makes the Mosaic Covenant Makes the New Covenant	Fulfills the Mosaic Covenant Mediates the New Covenant	
How is the Non-Believer Sanctified?	Provides the possibility and means for sanctification Works to encourage you to place a faith in His Son who died for your sins	Provides the possibility and means for salvation from the penalty of sin	
How is the Believer Sanctified?	Forgives sin Regenerates Works through His word the Bible by teaches what sin is and His moral standard Provides an example of agapē love to imitate and motive Believers to be children without fault and pleasing to His sight Disciplines by rebuking and educating the Believer what holy behavior is	Atones for all of the Believer's sins Enables adoption to be a son of God and heir to God's promised inheritance Spiritual union with Jesus Provides the power for the Believer to live a sanctified life Provides an example of what it means to be holy and a goal for full development Provides a community of Believers who could encourage and help in the process of sanctification and be responsible for each other	

The Teacher Note for this lesson is at:

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Teacher Notes

In contrast to the Old Testament where God designates time, space, objects and people as holy, the New Testament places a more personal focus of holiness: on Jesus Christ and the people whom the Holy Spirit is bestowed.

1. Examine these verses and share your observation of how the Holy Spirit is an agent of sanctification and sets Believers apart for God.

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Moreover, I will **give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you**; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to do My judgments. (Ezek 36:26-27, LSB)

Inform the student that Titus 3:4-6 is based on Ezekiel 36:26-27. What do you observe about the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit sanctifies by washing the heart and renewing the mind.

And because you are sons, God **sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts**, crying, "Abba! Father!" Therefore **you are no longer a slave, but a son**; and if a son, **then an heir** through God. (Gal 4:6-7, LSB)

Ask the student: how is the Holy Spirit related to Jesus Christ?

The Holy Spirit sanctifies by assuring the Believer of the indwelling presence of Jesus Christ and making one a son.

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, **so that we may know the depths** graciously given to us by God, of which depths we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in **those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual depths with spiritual words**. But a natural man does not accept the depths of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually examined. (1 Cor 2:12-14, LSB)

Ask the student: how does the Holy Spirit sanctify Believers? What does the Holy Spirit do?

The Holy Spirit sanctifies by teaching and helping the Believer understand the Scriptures

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and **anointed us** is God, who also sealed us and **gave the pledge of the Spirit in our hearts**. (2 Cor 1:21-22, LSB)

Ask the student: what does the word "pledge" mean? How does this affect what the Holy Spirit does?

A pledge is something given as security for the fulfillment of a contract or the payment of a debt. For example, God provided Jesus Christ as a payment of a debt and is giving the Holy Spirit as a security for the fulfillment of the New Covenant!

The Holy Spirit sanctifies by attesting to the reality of Believer's faith and guarantees his inheritance in the future completion of salvation

2. Carefully observe how the Holy Spirit helps the Believer live a sanctified life devoted and dedicated to God. What do you see when a Believer cooperates with the Holy Spirit?

So then, brothers, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die, **but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the practices of the body**, you will live. **For as many as are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.** (Rom 8:12-14, LSB)

Ask the student: what is the definition of “obligation?” Use a dictionary! What do you observe happening when a Believer follows the Holy Spirit?

While a Believer’s sinful nature remains, the Holy Spirit provides the power that enables the Believer freedom from the obligation to live according to his sinful nature.

But I say, **walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.** For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you do not do the things that you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But **the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.** Against such things there is no law. (Gal 5:16-23, LSB)

Ask the student: how do you “walk by the Spirit?” What is the benefit?

Walking by the Spirit is reading, understanding, and applying God’s word the Bible. While prayer and worship is also important, knowing God’s word is foremost.

The Holy Spirit provides the possibility of salvation from the power of sin; but, it is limited by the degree that the Believer “lives by the Spirit” or “led by the Spirit”. The “fruit of the Spirit” is the natural product of the Holy Spirit when there is a living relationship between God and the Believer, but only to the extent of one’s devotion to knowing God’s words that define agapē love, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

And in the same way **the Spirit also helps our weakness**, for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. (Rom 8:26-27, LSB)

Ask the student: what do you observe the Holy Spirit doing for the Believer?

The Holy Spirit helps sustain Believers during burdens and disappointments through intercession and prayer.

But **to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for what is profitable.** For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to someone else faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, and to another the workings of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to someone else various kinds of tongues, and to another the translation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills. For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. For also **by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body**, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. For also the body is not one member, but many. (1 Cor 12:7-14, LSB)

Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any **fellowship of the Spirit**, if any affection and compassion, fulfill my joy, that you think the same way, **by maintaining the same love, being united in spirit, thinking on one purpose, doing nothing from selfish ambition or vain glory, but with humility of mind regarding one another as more important than yourselves**, not merely looking out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. (Phil 2:1-4, LSB)

Ask the student: as you read these two passages, what do you observe the Holy Spirit doing? Question and discuss!

In making all Believers one by the Spirit, the Holy Spirit serves a unifying function in bringing Believers together for the singular purpose of serving God.

To this community of Believers, the Holy Spirit bestows spiritual gifts for the purpose of edifying and promoting spiritual maturity and all for the glory of God.

3. Fill out the Chart and list what you learned about the Holy Spirit.

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How is the Non-Believer Sanctified?	Provides the possibility and means for sanctification Works to encourage you to place a faith in His Son who died for your sins	Provides the possibility and means for salvation from the penalty of sin	The Holy Spirit's work is confined to the Believer; thus, there is no work on the non-Believer
How is the Believer Sanctified?	Forgives sin Regenerates Works through His word the Bible by teaches what sin is and His moral standard Provides an example of agapē love to imitate and motive Believers to be children without fault and pleasing to His sight Disciplines by rebuking and educating the Believer what holy behavior is	Atones for all of the Believer's sins Enables adoption to be a son of God and heir to God's promised inheritance Spiritual union with Jesus Provides the power for the Believer to live a sanctified life Provides an example of what it means to be holy and a goal for full development Provides a community of Believers who could encourage and help in the process of sanctification and be responsible for each other	Indwells permanently, washes the heart and renews the mind Is the assurance of the indwelling presence of Jesus Christ Marks the Believer as the property of God's and guarantees his inheritance in the future completion of salvation Helps the Believer understand the Bible and provides the power to resist the power of sin Helps in times of trouble by intercession Provides a community of Believers to help him grow in spiritual maturity and service of God