

Having considered the Necessity, Nature, Mistakes, and Source of Holiness, we come this morning to Its Cause—now, let me assert very simply on the front end—that the Cause of all holiness of heart and life is the direct result or fruit of the Holy Spirit of Christ—simply put—without the Holy Spirit there is no TRUE or GOSPEL Holiness—the gift of the Spirit as a sanctifier—is the result of the gospel—the gift of the Spirit is a gospel gift...

When a poor and believing sinner comes to Christ for salvation—He receives a whole Savior—a justifier as well as a sanctifier—and it's in regards to this latter work—that Christ indwells us by His Spirit—as our Sanctifier...

- I. The Doctrine Stated
- II The Doctrine Proved
- III. The Doctrine Applied

I. The Doctrine Stated

1. Here—I desire to provide and briefly explain a simple doctrine or statement of fact—that I intend to prove under the second heading...
2. The Holy Spirit of God is the direct or immediate cause of all holiness in the heart and life of God's people...
3. [1] The Holy Spirit—that is—the Holy Spirit is especially concerned with the application of salvation to souls...
4. This of course does not deny—that the Scriptures also ascribe our sanctification to the Father and to the Son...
5. Jud.1:1—"sanctified by God the Father" Heb.13:12—"Wherefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood..."
6. But—the Scriptures ascribe sanctification especially and uniquely to the Spirit of God, 2Thess.2:13—"the sanctification of the Spirit..."
7. But—it's to simply assert—that the Scriptures ascribe sanctification especially and uniquely to the Spirit of God...
8. John Murray—"It is God who sanctifies. Specifically it is the Holy Spirit who is the agent of sanctification..."
9. Thomas Boston—"In a special manner sanctification belongs to the Spirit; as the Father elects, the Son redeems, and the Holy Ghost sanctifies..."
10. Now—again, obviously the Father and Son both share in this work—but sanctification belongs to that aspect of redemption will call—application...
11. The Father plans redemption, the Son purchases redemption—and the Holy Spirit of Christ applies redemption...
12. Thus—the work of the Spirit in sanctification is varied—He leads, comforts, assures, convicts, teaches—as the Spirit of sanctification...
13. All that the Spirit does within the hearts of God's people—collectively serves the purpose of our sanctification...
14. That is—the Spirit sanctifies us by leading, comforting, assuring, convicting, and teaching—through these He sanctifies...
15. Now—that the Holy Spirit serves as the unique Agent or Cause of our sanctification is found in His unique title—the HOLY Spirit...
16. Now—He's called the Holy Spirit NOT because He is more holy than the Father or Son—they are equally holy...
17. He is repeatedly referred to as the HOLY Spirit—because it's His unique task to work holiness in God's people...
18. Thus—the apostle Paul referred to Him, in Rom.1:4 as "the Spirit of holiness"—"He was declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead..."

19. [2] Direct or immediate cause—here I must take a few minutes and remind you of an important distinction...
20. Historically—reformed theologians speak of the direct (immediate) and indirect cause of sanctification (mediate)...
21. The DIRECT cause of sanctification is the Holy Spirit—the INDIRECT cause of sanctification is the grace of faith...
22. Thus—the same Bible says we are "sanctified by the Spirit" (Rom.15:16) and "sanctified by faith" (Acts 26:18)...
23. But the Spirit is the direct cause of sanctification—because faith is the work of the Spirit within our hearts...
24. Now—again this does NOT deny that in some sense, both the Father and Son are also direct agents in our sanctification...
25. But it is to assert—the Holy Spirit is the principle CAUSE of our sanctification as He uniquely indwells us...
26. The church corporately and Christians individually—are the temple of God—indwelt by the Spirit of Christ...
27. Thus—because the Spirit directly and unique indwells us—He directly and uniquely makes us a holy people...
28. [3] All holiness in heart and life—this means—the Spirit is the direct cause of all habitual and actual holiness...
29. That is—the Spirit not only works all grace within our hearts, but He also enables us to work that grace out...
30. Thus—all holiness of heart and life is the direct result of the Spirit's ministry within God's beloved people...
31. The Spirit makes the tree good that its fruit is good—He makes us holy in heart and life—the one flows from the other...
32. Gal.5:22—"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control..."
33. Thus—the Holy Spirit makes our hearts holy—and then works within us—to bear this fruit and do good deeds...
34. Or, if you prefer the distinction that I've made before—the Spirit is the cause of our actual and manifest holiness...

II The Doctrine Proved

1. Here—I want to consider five key texts—that underscore the Spirit's work in sanctification—and then summarize them in three points...
2. 2Cor.3:18—"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord..."
3. [a] The goal of sanctification—"being transformed into the same image from glory to glory"—from one degree of glory to another...
4. The goal or pattern of sanctification is Christ-likeness—every Christian is being changed into the image of Christ...
5. [b] The means of sanctification—"beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord"—the mirror is the word of God...
6. When Christians look to Christ by faith, as revealed upon the pages of Holy Scripture, their hearts are changed...
7. As Christians spend time with Christ, have fellowship with Christ, their hearts are changed to reflect His glory...
8. But Christians learn about Christ and look to Christ—as He has revealed Himself within the pages of Scripture...
9. [c] The agent of sanctification—"just as by the Spirit of the Lord"—we are being changed by the Holy Spirit...

10. The Spirit opens our spiritual eyes, He gives us faith, that we can look upon Christ as found in Holy Scripture...
11. In other words—the Spirit of God uses the word of God, to communicate grace to our hearts and effect change...
12. The Spirit of God changes our hearts, by and through the word—the word is the means by which the Spirit works...
13. There's some uncertainty how this phrase should be rendered—some translations have it—"the Lord who is the Spirit..."
14. But either way—either Paul says the Spirit is the Lord, or more likely—He is the Spirit of the Lord (Christ)...
15. The point being—the Holy Spirit is the direct cause behind our transformation—the Spirit is transforming us...
16. This is true with regards to regeneration, wherein the soul is radically changed—and sanctification, wherein the souls is gradually changed...
17. Zech.12:10—"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn..."
18. By "the Spirit of grace and supplication" I understand the Spirit of God who gives the grace of faith and repentance...
19. This prophecy is fulfilled at the day of Pentecost—when many Jews, responsible for Christ's death, believed...
20. John Gill—"I will pour on them...the Spirit of grace—by which is meant the Holy Spirit of God, who is called the '*Spirit of grace*'; not merely because he is good and gracious, and loving to his people, and is of grace given unto them; but because he is the author of all grace in them; of gracious convictions, and spiritual illuminations; of quickening, regenerating, converting, and sanctifying grace..."
21. Furthermore—the Lord promised—To pour out the Spirit of grace and supplication"—that is—the Spirit who causes us to pray...
22. Rom.8:26—"Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought..."
23. The Holy Spirit not only works grace within our hearts—but He creates holy breathings and desires in the soul...
24. Ezek.36:26-27—"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of 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 keep My judgments and do them..."
25. V26 describes regeneration and v27 sanctification—in order for us to do good (v27), we must be made good (v26)...
26. V27—"I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them..."
27. By "statutes" and "judgments" is meant the commands of God—Christians "walk in" "keep" and "do" the law...
28. But notice how—"I will put My Spirit in you and cause you"—that is—the Spirit will enables us to obey God...
29. Rom.8:13-14—"For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God..."
30. Notice—being "led by the Spirit" in a right of every true child of God—every Christian is a Spirit-led Christian...
31. Notice also—one manifestation of being led by the Spirit—is that we are putting to death the deeds of the body...
32. In other words—the Holy Spirit works within our hearts—giving us the evangelical grace of true repentance...
33. Now—as I have already mentioned before—sanctification entails two activities—mortification and vivification...
34. How are Christians enabled to mortify the deeds of the flesh—"if you by the Spirit"—it is by the Spirit that we mortify the deeds of the flesh...

35. Now—we will come to what mortification is next week—but let simply state—mortification is a part of sanctification...
36. Dear Christian—whatever mortification entails—it's only possible by the personal and powerful work of the Spirit...
37. Eph.3:14-16—"For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man..."
38. [a] Christians are strengthened according to the riches of God's grace—Christ is the storehouse of God's grace...
39. [b] Christians are strengthened by the Spirit—the Holy Spirit communicates grace from Christ to the soul....
40. [1] The Spirit UNITES the soul—that is—He unites us to Christ—who is the source of all sanctifying grace...
41. The same Spirit indwells Christ and His people—this Spirit unites us to Christ by faith—He makes us one...
42. 1Cor.6:17—"he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him"—that is—they have the same Spirit in them...
43. Thus—all that is in Christ, byway of saving and sanctifying grace, the Spirit communicates to the individual soul...
44. John Calvin says in the Institutes, in the opening paragraph of Book III—all of the grace that exists in Christ, will never benefit us—until we get into Christ...
45. John Calvin—"We must understand that as long as Christ remains outside of us, and we are separated from him, all that he has suffered and done for the salvation of the human race remains useless and of no value to us..."
46. He goes on to attribute our union with Christ—"to the secret energy of the Spirit, by which we come to enjoy Christ and all His benefits..."
47. Now—its true—we have union by faith—He dwells in us by faith—but faith is the work and gift of the Spirit...
48. Thus—the Spirit of God is our Sanctifier as He unites us to Christ—who is the abundant source of all grace...
49. [2] The Spirit BEAUTIFIES the soul—that is—He's at work within us—shaping our hearts into Christ's image...
50. This can be illustrated in the first and original creation—the Spirit of God was the direct Agent who formed creation...
51. Gen.1:2—"The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters..."
52. It was the Holy Spirit who took the formless mass of creation—and transformed it into a beautiful creation...
53. This imagery is used again in the NT in relation to Christ, the Second Man and Last Adam—Head of the new creation...
54. Matt.3:16—"When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him..."
55. Thus—the Holy Spirit not only beautified Christ's human nature—but He also beautifies His spiritual body...
56. [3] The Spirit STRENGTHENS the soul—that is—He enables us to perform acts of holiness—negative and positive...
57. That is—He empowers us to mortify the deeds of the body—and He enables us to walk in harmony to God's law...
58. The Spirit of Christ indwells His people for the express purpose of motivating and enabling them to live holy lives...
59. This again can be illustrated in Christ—it was the Spirit of God who empowered His human nature to be and live holy...

60. Isa.11:2—"The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD..."
61. Now—as we shall see in a few week—the Spirit strengthens the soul with, by, and through the word of God...
62. The word of God in its entirety is the means whereby the Spirit of God—empowers and motivates the soul...

III. The Doctrine Applied

A. Let us understand the Spirit

1. There are two facts about the work of the Holy Spirit within our hearts that needs balancing—[1] it's mysterious, [2] it's revealed...
2. [1] It's mysterious—Jesus told Nicodemus that the work of the Spirit in regeneration was similar to the wind...
3. John Murray—"The mode of the Spirit's operation in sanctification is encompassed with mystery. We do not know the mode of the Spirit's indwelling nor the mode of his efficient working in the hearts and minds and wills of God's people by which they are progressively cleansed from the defilement of sin and more and more transfigured after the image of Christ..."
4. [2] It's revealed—though we can never fully understand the Spirit's work we should strive to understand what's been revealed...
5. That is—the Scriptures have revealed how the Spirit sanctifies the soul—at least—the broad strokes of that work...
6. My friends—if you or I am to grow in holiness—then we must understand HOW this is ordinarily achieved...
7. Now—is it possible to study these things in great detail, and yet, never grow one bit in true or gospel holiness—yes...
8. Simply because we grow in our understanding of these things—doesn't necessarily mean we'll grow in holiness...
9. But—necessary to truly grow in holiness is the growing understanding of WHAT and HOW holiness is obtained...
10. Thus—I want to challenge all of us—every one us—to strive to understand the biblical framework of holiness...
11. That is—why is it necessary—what is its nature—what are its mistakes—what is its source—and who is it's cause...
12. Abraham Kuyper—"Sanctification is one of the most glorious gifts which, by the Covenant of Grace, the Mediator bestows upon the saint. It covers his entire mental, spiritual, and physical nature. We should, therefore, thoroughly understand it, and learn how to obtain it, and every believer, whatever the measure of his faith, should be fully aware of his attitude toward it; for erroneous views concerning this will surely lead us astray from the living Christ..."

B. Let us walk by the Spirit

1. Gal.5:16—"Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh...v25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit..."
2. Thus—the question becomes—what does it mean to "walk in (by) the Spirit"—let me simply suggest three helps...
3. [1] Depend upon the Spirit—that is—to walk by the Spirit is to cease walking by our own strength and ability...
4. To "walk by the Spirit" is to walk conscious of our weakness—it's to walk dependent upon the Spirit's power...
5. Gal.5:25—"If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit"—"If the Spirit is the source of our life, let the Spirit also direct our course..."

6. That is—if the Spirit gives the beginning of spiritual life—then—trust Him to give the continuation of spiritual life...
7. Gal.3:3—"Are you so foolish? Having begun in (by) the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh..."
8. This text is very similar to Gal.5:25—the Galatians began by the Spirit, but were attempted to continue by the flesh...
9. Paul's question is rhetorical—"Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh"—NO...
10. The point Paul is making is this—"Since you have begun by the Spirit, the only way to continue is by the Spirit..."
11. In other words—You've trusted the Spirit to begin your life—then continue to trust the Spirit to finish this work...
12. Prov.3:5-6—"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths..."
13. [2] Pray for the Spirit—that is—we must pray to God that He would give us His Spirit as a sanctifying Spirit...
14. Now—without apology I am suggesting—we must pray to God that He would sanctify us by His Holy Spirit...
15. This is what I mean by—asking God to give us His Spirit—every Christian has the Spirit who indwells him...
16. In this sense no Christian has more or less of the Spirit—"If anyone has not the Spirit of Christ, he is not His..."
17. But—Christians have need of asking God—that the Spirit would mightily and increasingly work within us...
18. In this sense—it's NOT wrong to ask for the Spirit—to pray that God would send His Spirit upon and within us...
19. Song 4:16—"Awake, O north *wind*, and come, O south! Blow upon my garden, *that* its spices may flow out. Let my beloved come to his garden and eat its pleasant fruits..."
20. Lk.11:13—"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him..."
21. [3] Grieve not the Spirit, Eph.4:30—"Do not grieve the Holy Spirit"—the Spirit is a holy and distinct person...
22. Self-trust and dependence grieves the Holy Spirit—failure to trust the Spirit for sanctification grieves the Spirit...

C. Let us thank God for the Spirit

1. Let me ask you this question—how often do you (or we)—give thanks to God for His gracious gift of the Spirit...
2. And even more specifically—how often do we give thanks to God for the Spirit's sanctifying work within us...
3. My friends—every holy thought, word, and deed—is the direct result and fruit—of the Holy Spirit of Christ...
4. Let us never forget the person and work of the Spirit—for without the Spirit—we would know no true holiness...