

The Fourfold Gospel

PART 2: SANCTIFIER

STUDY OVERVIEW

Christ Community Church is part of the Christian & Missionary Alliance, a denomination that grew out of the ministry A.B. Simpson in the late 1800s. Simpson developed the Fourfold Gospel, which became core to the DNA of the Alliance. These lessons provide an overview of that message: Jesus is our Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King. Our identity in Christ is deeper when we understand his presence and power in these multi-dimensional ways.¹

STUDY OBJECTIVES

- To have a deeper love for Jesus and awareness of his multi-dimensional involvement in our lives.
- To have a deeper appreciation for the foundational beliefs of the Christian & Missionary Alliance.
- To love like Jesus, learn from Jesus, live like Jesus, and lead with Jesus.

CONVERSATION STARTER

Have you ever trained for a marathon, a championship game, or an important musical performance? What did the training include?

JESUS IS OUR SANCTIFIER

Sanctification is the ongoing process of transformation that happens when a believer submits to God's will and continually lives through the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 12:1–2, 1 Corinthians 6:11). After we trust in Jesus, the Holy Spirit's presence within us continually shapes us to be more like Jesus in our thoughts, words, and actions. Sanctification is both a "crisis" event (Romans 6:1–14) and a "progressive" one (2 Corinthians 3:15–17).

When we accept Jesus' gift of salvation (we are *saved/justified*), we enter a lifelong, ongoing process of becoming more like Jesus (we are *made holy/sanctified*). Sanctification is a work of God, but we also have work to do in the process. The daily choices we make to align with God's will keep us on track to experience sanctification.

Jesus gives us the *power and desire to obey* through the Holy Spirit:

- John 14:10–14—Whoever believes will do the works Jesus has been doing.
- John 14:15–18; James 1:5, 21—The Holy Spirit provides wisdom and discernment for righteous living.

¹ cmalliance.org/who-we-are/our-story

- Philippians 2:12–13—The NIV says, “God works in you *to will and to act* in order to fulfill his good purpose” (emphasis added), but compare these two other translations:
 - **CEV:** “So work with fear and trembling to discover what it really means to be saved. God is working in you *to make you willing and able* to obey him” (emphasis added).
 - **TPT:** “Now you must continue to make this new life fully manifested as you live in the holy awe of God—which brings you trembling into his presence. God will *continually revitalize you*, implanting within you *the passion to do* what pleases him” (emphasis added).

Which do you struggle with more? Being *able* to do God’s will? Or *wanting* to do God’s will?

2 Peter 1:3–8 says, “[Christ’s] divine power has given us *everything we need* for a godly life... [and] his promises, [through which] you may participate in the *divine nature*...”

If you knew you could not fail, what would you attempt to do for God’s kingdom purposes?

Jesus also gives us an example of surrender and obedience to follow:

- Jesus serves as an exemplary teacher (Matthew 5–7)
- Jesus shows us how to take up our cross (Matthew 16:24–27, Luke 14:27)
- If we follow Jesus, others can follow us (1 Corinthians 11:1)
- Jesus gave the example of laying down his life for others (1 John 3:16, Philippians 2:5–8)
- Jesus’ willingness to suffer is almost as significant as his suffering (Luke 22:41–44)

What is something Jesus has been asking you to surrender fully to him in obedience?

Read Romans 12:1–2 and Ephesians 4:22–23 (or print and provide them side-by-side on a handout).

- What words or phrases stand out to you?
- What similarities do you notice between these two texts?

Note that there are *both active and passive* verbs in each text:

| REFERENCE | ACTIVE (the believer does this) | PASSIVE (God does to/for you) |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Romans 12:1 | Offer your body as a living sacrifice | |
| Romans 12:2 | Test and approve God’s will | Be transformed by the renewing of your mind |
| Ephesians 4:22 | Put off your old self | |
| Ephesians 4:23 | Put on the new self | To be made new in the attitude of your minds |

What do we learn about sanctification from these texts?

Have individuals read the following verses aloud and discuss:

- Ezekiel 36:26—God gives us a new heart.
- John 17:17–19—We are sanctified by the truth of God’s word; Christ is sanctified so we can be too.
- Romans 7:21–25—God will deliver us from slavery to sin.
- 1 Corinthians 1:30—It is God’s initiative and choice that Christ “becomes for us...our holiness.”
- 1 Thessalonians 4:3–8—Sanctification is linked to avoiding sexual sin. Sins of the body require both will and spirit to overcome.
- Ephesians 5:18—We must choose to *be continually filled* with the Spirit; the verb tense is ongoing as “being filled” is not a one-time act.
- Titus 2:11–14—God’s grace teaches us to live self-controlled lives, “eager to do what is good.”

RESPONSE

1. Share a time of corporate confession. You can use a psalm of lament (Psalms 44, 60, 74, 79 are some examples) or read aloud the below confession from Christian tradition:

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.²

2. Have participants get in groups of two to three. Share a time of confession and prayer with each other. Be specific about the sins you need to lay aside (putting off the old self). Give thanks to God for his work *through* Jesus Christ, *in* you through the Holy Spirit. Offer your bodies as living sacrifices to the God who gives you strength to walk in new life.

² From the Book of Common Prayer, Episcopal