

grace anyone who has fallen into sin can find forgiveness and restoration from God, if truly repentant and possessing faith.^{xvi}

Sanctification: Initial, Progressive, Entire

We believe that in sanctification the Holy Spirit sets the child of God apart to belong completely to God, making it possible for the believer to love God wholeheartedly and to blamelessly obey all God's commandments. Sanctification begins the moment we are justified and regenerated. From that moment we are gradually or progressively sanctified as we walk with God and daily grow in grace and in a more perfect obedience to God. This prepares for the crisis of entire sanctification, brought about in an instant when we present ourselves as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God, through faith in Jesus Christ. In this baptism of Holy Spirit, the human heart is cleansed from all inbred sin. The crisis of entire sanctification allows us to love God and others and empowers us for effective service. It is followed by lifelong growth in grace and the knowledge of Jesus. We continue this life of holiness through faith in the sanctifying blood of Christ and demonstrate it by loving obedience to God's revealed will.^{xvii}

The Gifts of the Spirit

We believe that the Gift of the Spirit is the Holy Spirit himself; He is more to be desired than any gifts He gives. These He wisely distributes to individual members of the Church to help them fulfill their role in the body of Christ. The gifts of the Spirit, although not always identifiable with natural abilities, function through them to build up the whole Church. We don't just use these gifts as we want. They are to be exercised lovingly under the administration of the Lord of the Church. The real value of the gifts of the Spirit is measured by how useful they make us to the Church, not by any ecstasy produced in us.^{xviii}

The Church

We believe that the Christian Church is made up of all who believe in Jesus Christ, its founder and only Head. Its members have renounced the world, the flesh and the devil, and have dedicated themselves to continue the work Christ assigned to His church until He returns. It must preach the pure Word of God, properly administer the sacraments according to Christ's instructions, and live in obedience to all that Christ commands. A local church is a body of believers formally organized on biblical principles, and meeting regularly for evangelism, nurture, fellowship and worship.^{xix}

The Sacraments: Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe that water baptism and the Lord's Supper are the sacraments of the church. Christ commanded and ordained these as a means of grace when received through faith. They are symbols of our profession of Christian faith and signs of God's gracious ministry toward us. By them, God enlivens, strengthens and confirms our faith.

The validity of the sacraments does not reside in any particular mode of administration but rather in obedience to Christ's commands and receiving these divine gifts in faith.