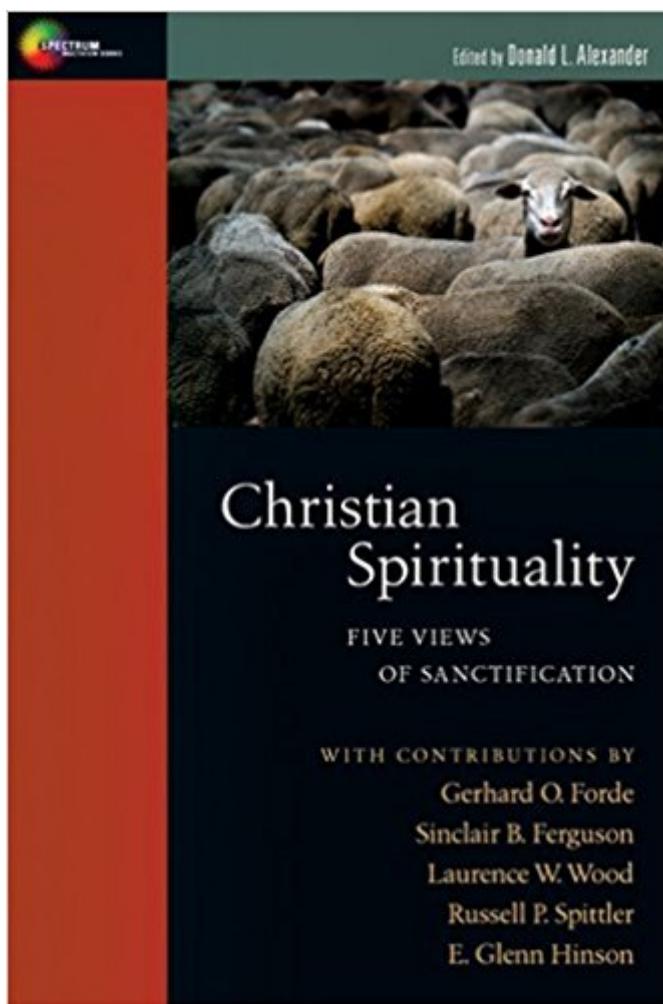


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# Christian Spirituality: Five Views Of Sanctification



## **Synopsis**

How can we grow closer to God? Is there a secret to spiritual life? Do we need a second blessing? Is sanctification God's work or ours? Is it instantaneous or is it a process? The nature of Christian spirituality has been widely debated throughout the history of the church. The doctrine of sanctification was one of the main fissures separating Luther from the Catholic Church. Even today different groups of Protestants disagree on how we draw closer to God. What distinguishes the different positions and what exactly is at stake in these recurring debates? To answer these questions Donald L. Alexander, professor of biblical theology at Bethel College, has brought together five scholars that represent each of the main historical Protestant traditions: Gerhard O. Forde on the Lutheran view; Sinclair B. Ferguson on the Reformed view; Laurence W. Wood on the Wesleyan view; Russell P. Spittler on the Pentecostal view; and E. Glenn Hinson on the Contemplative view. With an introduction by Alexander and responses to each of the main essays by the other contributors, this book provides a helpful and stimulating introduction to an important doctrine of the church.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Donald Alexander (Ph.D., University of California, Santa Barbara) is emeritus professor of Biblical Studies at Bethel University, St. Paul, MN. He served for ten years as a missionary at the Alliance Bible Seminary, Hong Kong, China. He is the author of *The Pursuit of Godliness: Sanctification in Christological Perspective*. Gerhard O. Forde was professor of theology at Luther Seminary in St.

Paul, Minnesota. He also taught at Luther College in Iowa and St. Olaf College in Minnesota. His many publications include The Law-Gospel Debate, Justification by Faith: A Matter of Life and Death and Where God Meets Man: Luther's Down-to-Earth Approach to the Gospel. Sinclair B. Ferguson is senior minister at First Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina, and serves as professor of systematic theology at Westminster Seminary in Dallas, Texas. Laurence W. Wood is Frank Paul Morris Professor of Systematic Theology at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky. His books include God and History and Theology as History and Hermeneutics. Russell P. Spittler is senior professor of New Testament at Fuller Theological Seminary. He has also held the positions of associate dean of the School of Theology and provost and vice president of academic affairs at Fuller. Among his many publications are Perspectives in Neo-Pentecostalism, The Corinthian Correspondence and God the Father. E. Glenn Hinson, now retired, was professor of church history at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

I'm a Reformed Presbyterian pastor. Sinclair Ferguson's chapter is priceless. It's far and away the fullest and clearest summary explanation of a Christ-centered view of sanctification I've ever encountered. His interaction with other positions is instructive. It also helped me understand the strengths and weaknesses of other views.

I think the authors did a great job explaining their viewpoints, although, the Pentecostal view needed to be fleshed out a little more. I also think their responses to each other's work was done in a respectful tone which is nice to see. I would love to see another work like this done today. The church landscape has changed greatly since 1988 and I'd love to hear from the seeker-sensitive crowd on how they view sanctification.

Very happy

I would recommend this book to anyone wanting to learn about how major denominations interpret the Scriptures on the subject of sanctification. The different views are written by highly informed and knowledgeable theologians of each tradition. Especially helpful are the reviews of each article by the other authors.

I found the book to be very forthcoming on the various views on Sanctification. Coming out of the Methodism into the Reform tradition I found the anaylitical approach very helpful for me.

Difficult but an eye opener. I had it as an assigned reading book during my course of Spiritual Formation.

Very interesting and differing perspectives on sanctification in relation to justification; each view has responses from the other denominational leaders which are equally interesting.

Excellent

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