

Sanctification 101

Lesson 2 Sanctification and Holiness

PART I EXPLANATION

Introduction: The Bible says that Jesus Christ is “made unto us... sanctification” and this is referring to Him cleansing us from our sins by His own blood. “The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.” That is the finished work of Christ and in that respect He is our sanctification. However, the work of sanctification is primarily a work of the Holy Spirit of God. While Christ has washed us from our sins in His own blood, the Holy Spirit releases us from the bondage of sin. Christ gives us what we call “Positional Holiness” in the sight of God, while the Holy Spirit is working “Practical Holiness” in the life of a Christian.

The Bible refers to the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit in three distinct ways. The first way the term sanctification is used, refers to a one time event that happens at the regeneration and conversion of a sinner. At the moment of conversion, the Holy Spirit indwells the believer and sanctifies their body as the temple of the Holy Ghost. At this point they have forever been set apart for the service and worship of God. For example, in the OT, the temple was sanctified and set apart for the service and worship of God. That is where the presence of God resided, therefore it was a holy or sanctified place. In the NT, the body of a Christian is holy or sanctified because *it* is the temple of the Holy Ghost. (I Corinthians 3:16-17 ; 6:11,19-20)

The second way in which the Bible refers to sanctification also happens at the point of conversion. It is a work of the Holy Spirit whereby He sanctifies the desires of the individual by imparting to them the Divine nature. This is the work of giving a holy disposition to the Christian, creating a hunger and thirst for righteousness. (II Thessalonians 2:13, I Peter 1:2) This form of sanctification is also a one time experience in the life of a Christian, where a desire for holiness is imparted. This is not done by completely removing the sinful desires of the flesh, rather by giving an appetite for holiness which can never be extinguished. Failure to satisfy this God given desire for holiness is grieving to the Christian’s spirit and to the Spirit of God.

The third way in which the Bible refers to sanctification is the process whereby the believer is being cleansed from sin. It is the product and living out of the first two forms of sanctification. Because the Christian has been set apart for the service and worship of God and because of the desires of the Divine Nature, the Christian is actively involved in living up to the calling of God. (I Thessalonians 4:7)

Every Christian through divine power has been given “all that pertains to life and godliness (II Peter 1:4), and is expected to be victorious over sin and growing in their conformity to the Lord Jesus Christ. Holiness is the state of being holy, (which is the pursuit of the Christian), while sanctification is the process of being made holy. While we do not believe that any person is entirely without sin, we do believe that God expects every one of His children to be “perfecting holiness in the fear of God”.

Definitions: *For English use the Webster’s 1828 Dictionary and copy all appropriate definitions for each word. For the Greek and Hebrew use a Strong’s Concordance and copy the definition. The Strong’s number is in parenthesis.*

English: Sanctification -

Holiness -

Greek: (38) **hagiasmos** *hag-ee-as-mos'*

(42) **hagiosune** *hag-ee-o-soo'-nay*

Hebrew: (6944) **qodesh** *ko'-desh*

Quotation: “Nothing else but the habitual and predominant devotion and dedication of soul, and body, and life, and all that we have to God; and esteeming, and loving, and serving, and seeking Him, before all the pleasures and prosperity of the flesh.” Richard Baxter

“Gospel truth is the only root whereon Gospel holiness will grow.” John Owen

“Holiness hath in it a natural tendency to life and peace.” Elisha Coles

“Here is the Christian’s way and his end ... His way is holiness, his end happiness.” John Whitlock

“What health is to the heart, that holiness is to the soul.” John Flavel

“There is nothing destroyed by sanctification but that which would destroy us.” William Jenkyn

“Thou hast an art above God Himself, if thou canst fetch any true pleasure out of unholiness.” William Gurnall

“Not to arrive at perfection is the weakness of the flesh, not to aspire after it is the fault of the spirit.” William Bates

“God would not rub so hard if it were not to fetch out the dirt that is ingrained in our natures. God loves purity so well He had rather see a hole than a spot in His children’s garments...Say not that thou hast royal blood in thy veins, and art born of God, except thou canst prove thy pedigree by daring to be holy.” William Gurnall

Confessions (Look up and read these articles)

New Hampshire Baptist Confession of Faith of 1833

Article X Of Sanctification

London Baptist Confession of 1689

Chapter 13 Of Sanctification - paragraphs 1-3

Chapter 16 Of Good Works - paragraphs 1-7

Spurgeon's Catechism

Q - What is sanctification?

A - Sanctification is the work of God's Spirit (2Th 2:13) whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God (Eph 4:24) and are enabled more and more to die to sin, and live to righteousness (Ro 6:11).

Q - What are the benefits which in this life do either accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?

A - The benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification (Ro 5:1,2,5), are assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Spirit (Ro 14:17), increase of grace, perseverance in it to the end (Pr 4:18 1Jo 5:13 1Pe 1:5).

PART II EXPLORATION

Key Questions (*Answer in writing*)

1. What is sanctification?
2. What is holiness?
3. What is the difference between sanctification and holiness?
4. How is Jesus Christ our sanctification?
5. In what three ways does the Holy Spirit sanctify the believer?
6. Why has the body of a Christian been sanctified?
7. Why is sanctification the only way to identify a genuine believer?
8. What is different in the experience of a Christian indulging sinful lusts from that of an unbeliever?

Key Scriptures: *(summarize what each verse teaches in your own words)*

Psalm 29:2 We should give the Lord what He deserves by worshipping Him in the _____ of holiness.

I Corinthians 3:16-17 Because the Spirit of God dwells in you your body is the _____ of God. We must be very careful not to _____ the temple of God. God promises that He will _____ those that do so.

I Corinthians 6:12 The criteria Paul used to determine whether or not he should do something was whether it was _____ or profitable. He was careful to avoid being brought under the control or _____ of any thing.

I Corinthians 6:18-20 We are told to _____ fornication because it is a sin against your _____ which he reminds us is still the _____ of God.

II Corinthians 6:14-7:1 We are told not to be _____ together with unbelievers in our life. Instead, we are expected to _____ from them. When we do so, God promises to be our _____ . Having that promise we should _____ ourselves from sin and attempt to be perfecting _____ in the _____ of displeasing God.

Ephesians 4:24 A Christian is to _____ on the _____ which _____ God has been _____ in righteousness and _____ holiness.

I Thessalonians 3:13 Paul prayed that their hearts would be _____ in holiness when the Lord returned.

I Thessalonians 4:3-7 Sanctification is the _____ of _____. We must learn how to control our body in _____ and _____ not in _____ as those who are not saved. For God has _____ us to _____ .

Hebrews 12:1 We should not only get rid of every _____ but also every _____ that hinders us in our Christian life.

Hebrews 12:14 We are given the serious warning that _____ holiness no man will _____ the Lord or go to heaven.

Key Chapter(s) *(Read daily and summarize in your own words the meaning of the chapter):*

Romans 6:15-23

PART III EXPECTATION

Memory verse: I Thessalonians 4:3-4

Personal Definition: (*Write a definition in your own words*)

Holiness -

Sanctification -

Personal Confession: (*Study the confessions and summarize them in your own words*)

Sanctification -

Meditation question: (*be prepared for discussion*)

What is wrong with giving a list of standards to define holiness?

How can you measure holiness?

Extra Credit: Commit to memorize Romans 6.