

Sanctification

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1 Cor. 1:30-31

1 Cor. 1:30-31, *“But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.”*

Acts 20:32, *“And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.”*

Sanctification is a strange-sounding word.

It is also associated with consecration, holiness, righteousness, purity, to hallow, and to be a saint.

We want to include these words and their meanings in our study.

These terms are not used often, but to understand the Christian life, then we must understand how these words are to affect our lives.

What does sanctify or sanctification mean?

Consecrate, hallow, purify, and separate.

It means to set apart.

Sanctification is used in the scriptures as the separation of the believer from evil things and ways.

It is in this sense the religious world derived the word “sanctuary” to mean the place where Christians come out of the world to meet.

Who sanctifies?

God.

- Gen. 2:3, *“And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.”*
- John 10:36, *“Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?”*

By the word.

- John 17:17, *“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”*
- 1 Tim. 4:4-6, *“For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer. If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.”*

Through the offering of Christ.

Heb. 10:10, *“By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”*

Through His blood.

Heb. 13:12, *“Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.”*

By faith.

Acts 26:18, *“To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.”*

Who or what is sanctified?

The seventh day.

Gen. 2:3, *“And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.”*

The firstborn.

- Exo. 13:2, *“Sanctify unto me all the firstborn, whatsoever openeth the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and of beast: it is mine.”*
- Num. 3:13, *“Because all the firstborn are mine; for on the day that I smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt I hallowed unto me all the firstborn in Israel, both man and beast: mine shall they be: I am the LORD.”*

The tabernacle.

Lev. 8:10, *“And Moses took the anointing oil, and anointed the tabernacle and all that was therein, and sanctified them.”*

Afterward, the priest could not enter the tabernacle until he had made a sin offering for himself.

The priests.

1 Chron. 15:14, *“So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel.”*

God’s people.

Joshua 7:13, *“Up, sanctify the people, and say, Sanctify yourselves against to morrow: for thus saith the LORD God of Israel, There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel: thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you.”*

Achan had taken gold and silver and garments from the destruction of Jericho and hid them in the earth under his tent. Because of this God was not with the children of Israel in the battle against Ai.

Sacrifices.

Exo. 29:36-37, *“And thou shalt offer every day a bullock for a sin offering for atonement: and thou shalt cleanse the altar, when thou hast made an atonement for it, and thou shalt anoint it, to sanctify it. Seven days thou shalt make an atonement for the altar, and sanctify it; and it shall be an altar most holy: whatsoever toucheth the altar shall be holy.”*

The Christian.

1 Cor. 6:11, *“And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.”*

The church.

Eph. 5:22-33, *“Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let every one of you*

in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband."

What is involved?

Be a saint.

Called to be saints.

- Rom. 1:7, *"To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ."*
- 1 Cor. 1:2, *"Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours."*

Saints are in Christ.

Phil. 4:21, *"Salute every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren which are with me greet you."*

All Christians are saints.

Eph. 3:18, *"May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;"*

Most people define the word saint according to the way the Catholic church uses it, but this is false. They claim only a very outstanding religious person (such as mother Teresa) can achieve sainthood.

Be holy.

Holy or holiness means clean, purity, righteousness, and hallowed.

We are to present our bodies holy.

Rom. 12:1, *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."*

We should be holy and without blame.

Eph. 1:4, *"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love."*

The church is to be holy.

- Eph. 5:27, *"That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."*

- 1 Cor. 5:9-13, *“I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat. For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within? But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.”*

We are to be holy in all manner of things.

- 1 Pet. 1:15, *“But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation,”*
- 2 Pet. 3:11, *“Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,”*

We are to be a holy priesthood.

1 Pet. 2:5, *“Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.”*

We are to be separated, clean, and pure.

Come out and be separate.

2 Cor. 6:17, *“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,”*

Be clean.

Be cleansed by the word.

John 15:3, *“Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.”*

Cleanse ourselves from all filthiness.

2 Cor. 7:1, *“Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”*

The church is to be clean.

Eph. 5:26, *“That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,”*

We are to have clean hands, spiritually.

James 4:8, “*Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.*”

We are to be cleansed by the blood of Christ.

1 John 1:7, “*But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*”

Be pure.

Keep thyself pure.

1 Tim. 5:22, “*Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men’s sins: keep thyself pure.*”

Purify thyself in obeying the truth.

1 Pet. 1:22, “*Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently.*”

We are to be a peculiar people.

Titus 2:14, “*Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*”

Be pure in heart.

Matt. 5:8, “*Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.*”

Conclusion.

Some of these terms have been misunderstood and misused.

Even though those in error have used them to teach false doctrines, that does not mean that we are to reject them.

May God help us to see what God expects of us and the kind of people we ought to be.

This is God’s way of keeping and preserving us for himself.

