

SECTION FOUR : SANCTIFIED (MADE HOLY)

34. CHRIST OUR SANCTIFICATION

We begin this section by looking at the words sanctify and holy, and sanctification and holiness. In most cases, they are the same root Greek words translated sanctify or holy, and sanctification or holiness. The English words sanctification and holiness, sanctify and holy are synonymous. To be sanctified is to be made holy.

hagios (adjective) means holy, hallowed, sacred, consecrated, dedicated, separated from sin, and consecrated or dedicated to God. It has to do with something more than an outward expression and emphasizes an inward character or attribute of godliness or godlikeness. God is holy. He is separate from sin. He calls us to be holy. Same word *hagios* is used for both.

hagiazō (verb), to make holy, to sanctify, to consecrate, signifies to separate from sin and set apart for God, to make a person or thing the opposite of being common or unclean. Example, it is translated "hallowed," in the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9).

hagiasmos (noun), translated holiness or sanctification. It refers to being separated to God and the conduct of those separated unto God

hagioi (adjective) translated saints, sanctified ones, holy ones, and refers to those devoted to God, a most holy thing, a consecrated thing.

Hence, essentially to sanctify, to make holy is to separate from sin and consecrate to God.

Having understood this word meaning, let us consider this in the context of the believer's identity and life in Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:30

But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

Ephesians 1:4

just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

Righteousness means there is no condemnation, no judgment, no conviction. It is right standing before God.

Holiness means there is no wickedness, no sin, no evil. It is being separated from sin unto God.

God is righteous. God is holy.

The only way unrighteous and sinful people could become righteous and holy, is by having this bestowed on them through a work of God's grace, based on the Cross of Christ. This is what God determined to do before the foundation of the world, and what He did.

God determined beforehand to have a holy people unto Himself. He determined that everyone who believed in Jesus, He would bring into Christ. And in Christ He would make them righteous and sanctify or make them holy unto Himself. Every believer is sanctified and made holy in Christ.

God brought us into Christ and made Christ to become our righteousness and our sanctification. In Christ, the believer is righteous and holy.

Christ is our sanctification. This means when we were brought into Christ, we became sanctified, just as He is sanctified. We became holy, just as He is holy. Christ is our holiness.

35. SANCTIFIED IN CHRIST

1 Corinthians 1:2

To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours.

1 Corinthians 6:9–11

9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,

10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

Regardless of your background, you were sanctified, you were made holy, in Christ. Your past life does not in any way determine your present 'level' of holiness. In Christ you have been made holy. You have been sanctified, set apart, consecrated, hallowed, dedicated, made sacred, made holy to God. This is your identity. A sanctified one. Someone who has been made holy unto God.

God completes the work and then invites us to live out of what He has done for us.

Hence, for the believer, sanctification or holiness is something we start out from in our Christian life, and not something we attain unto through our Christian life. Christ is our sanctification. We have been sanctified through faith in Christ and by the blood of the Cross of Christ. In daily life we live out of our state of being sanctified by the power of the Word of God and the Spirit of God. The daily Christian life is one of living out of holiness and letting the holiness of God pervade our lives, rather than striving for holiness.

I am holy in Christ therefore I keep all sin away from my spirit, soul, and body. *"Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God"* (2 Corinthians 7:1).

I am holy in Christ therefore I crucify the sinful desires of my body by the power of the Holy Spirit. *"For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live"* (Romans 8:13).

I am holy in Christ therefore I purify and renew my mind by hearing and obeying the truth of His Word (John 15:3; John 17:17,19; Romans 12:2; 1 Peter 1:22).

I am holy therefore I pursue a lifestyle of holiness because the new creation in me is created in righteousness and true holiness (Hebrews 12:14; Ephesians 4:24).

We often tell people to be holy. What if we helped people to recognize that they have been made holy, and then encourage them to live out of that?

36. WE ARE SAINTS IN CHRIST

1 Corinthians 1:2

To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours.

Believers are called *hagioi*, saints, sanctified ones, or holy ones, in Christ. We also see this in Paul's salutation in many of his epistles. He addresses believers as saints.

Romans 1:7

To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:1

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:21

Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you.

Colossians 1:2

To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colosse: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

A believer is a saint, a holy one, in Christ. Holiness is an attribute of God. It is His nature or character. In Christ, God has made us holy ones. In doing this, He has imparted to us this attribute, nature, and character He possess in Himself. The new creation we are in Christ is in the image of God, created in righteousness and true holiness. The believer is called a holy one not because of what they have achieved in their life, but because God has imparted His holiness into the believer. The believer is a holy one, and therefore walks in holiness and godliness or God-likeness.

2 Timothy 1:9

who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

Calling, purpose and grace was extended to us in Christ Jesus. This was part of God's plan even before time. This calling is a calling to holiness, a calling to be one of His holy ones. God's purpose and grace for our lives is worked out in and through us, in the context of us living as His holy ones.

37. BELIEVERS ARE A HOLY TEMPLE IN THE LORD

Ephesians 2:21-22

21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,

22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Holiness or sanctification is not only a personal individual calling, but also a collective calling for the body of Christ, both as a local church and the larger Church of Jesus Christ.

A temple is a dwelling place of God. It is a holy temple. The church community is a holy temple, a sacred dwelling place for God by His Spirit. This of course refers to the people of God, and not a physical place.

God dwells by His Spirit. So, this is pervasive and not confined to a location. Wherever God's people are, the temple of God is there and God dwells.

The individual believer is called a holy temple, the local church is called a holy temple, the entire Body of Christ is called a holy temple.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

The believer's physical body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19).

In 2 Corinthians 6:16-18 we are instructed that the temple of God should be kept free from idols. The temple of God should be kept free from anything unclean, unacceptable before God.

38. BEEN SANCTIFIED AND BEING SANCTIFIED IN CHRIST

Hebrews 10:9,10,14,29

9 Then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second.

10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

Colossians 1:22

in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—

We have been sanctified by faith in Christ (Acts 26:18). In the new covenant and by the blood of Christ we are a sanctified people. It was through Christ's Sacrifice that God sanctified us and made us holy unto Himself.

The Scriptures state that we have been sanctified (Hebrews 10:10; 1 Corinthians 1:2, 6:11) and it also states that we are being sanctified (Hebrews 10:14). We have been perfected forever, and yet we are being sanctified.

Sanctification is a completed work in the spirit and is a present continuous process in our daily lives. God completes the work and then invites us to live out of it. The work is completed in the spirit, and in the natural we live out of what has been completed for us in the spirit.

This is also true for the Church, the Body of Christ. The Lord Jesus is continually sanctifying the Church, His Body with the Word, as stated in Ephesians 5.

Ephesians 5:25-27

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

As we live out of who God has made us to be, and what He has done for us, the holiness of God begins to pervade our soul and our body. We begin to let the holiness of God affect our mind, our thoughts, our imaginations, our desires, our dreams. The holiness of God touches our affections, our appetites, our actions, our words, our choices. This is the outworking of His holiness in us. Thus, we are being sanctified and we are perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

39. SANCTIFIED BY THE WORD AND THE SPIRIT

The outworking of God's holiness in us into our soul and body takes place with the agency of the Word of God, the work of the Holy Spirit and as we grow in the community of believers, the temple of God.

The Word of God is a cleansing agent that washes us of filth, thus exerting the holiness of God over our being (John 15:3; John 17:17; Acts 20:32; Ephesians 5:26; Psalm 119:9).

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Holiness (Romans 1:4). He does not come apart of His holiness. Where He is welcomed, loved, and honored, His holiness prevails. He sanctifies

us and sets us apart unto God and empowers us to live holy lives (Romans 15:16; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:2; Romans 8:26).

As we open our lives to the Word of God, to the work of the Spirit and grow among a community of holy ones (saints), we live out our lives as those sanctified in Christ.

40. LIVING SANCTIFIED IN CHRIST

How does this identity of being sanctified in Christ, being holy ones of God, affect how we live our lives on earth? We will consider a few relevant aspects of living sanctified in Christ.

Possess your vessel in holiness and honor

1 Thessalonians 4:1–7

1 Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God;

2 for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;

4 that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,

5 not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God;

6 that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified.

7 For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.

In practical daily life, we continue to set ourselves apart unto God. We must learn to possess our own vessel, our own being especially our body, in holiness and in honor. We understand that we were saved and called to holiness. This means that we cannot follow the same things the unsaved do. We also hold one another with honor in this area.

I need to stay away from anything that violates the holiness of God in me.

Walk in love to walk in holiness

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

12 And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you,

13 so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.

We cannot walk in holiness if we do not walk in love. Notice how Paul desired for the believers to increase and abound in love so that they can be established blameless in holiness.

God is love. God is Holy. Love and holiness are attributes of God. They are His nature. When we walk in love, we abide in Him and the outcome will be a holy life.

Love does not enjoy sin (1 Corinthians 13:6). Love enjoys holiness.

However, there are some in the Church, who embrace a form of holiness that seems cold, heartless, and has no expression of love. For instance, when we emphasize certain forms, mannerisms, dress code, etc., and in the process show contempt to people who may not adhere to these, we have forsaken love to pursue a form of holiness, we think pleases God. Doing so, we have missed both the love of God and the holiness of God.

The holiness of God flows along with the love of God. Grace and truth flow together through Jesus Christ (John 1:17). A people of the New Covenant, “the law of liberty”, we understand both mercy and judgment, and we let mercy triumph over judgment (James 2:12-13).

Sanctified standards and values

Romans 12:1,2

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

As we live in a manner that is holy and pleasing to God, it necessitates that we are not conformed but transformed in our lifestyle. This means that the standards and values by which we live are now holy, and therefore differ from standards and values that may be dictated by ungodliness and things that displease God.

A sanctified life revealing His virtues

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

In Christ we are a chosen generation, a kingly priesthood, and a nation (race, tribe) of holy people who are special to Him. We are here to publish, celebrate, proclaim the virtues (or excellence) of the One who called us. The virtues of our God are to be revealed through us His holy people. We know that the beauty of God is revealed in the holiness of God. Hence as we live as holy ones, saints, sanctified in Christ, the virtues and excellencies of our God are revealed through us.

Sanctified vessels in Christ

2 Timothy 2:19–21

19 Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”

20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor.

21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

We live holy sanctified lives, knowing that this makes us useful for the Master and ready for the good works He has called us. This becomes a strong motivator to live as sanctified ones in Christ, separating ourselves from the sin in the world.

Persecuted and ridiculed for being sanctified

John 17:13–19

13 But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.

14 I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.

16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

18 As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

19 And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

2 Timothy 3:12

Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

When we live sanctified, we are living in the world, but not of the world, because we do not conform to things in the world that are unholy and displeasing to God. Jesus

indicated that we will be hated by the world because of this. The world will not understand or commend us living holy, consecrated lives unto God.

Sanctified and preserved blameless

1 Thessalonians 5:23

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As we live out of the holiness God has made us to be, in our daily life, we will experience the holiness of God touch our entire being. Our spirit, soul and body will be set apart completely to the Lord.

For some, worldliness, ungodliness, and uncleanness may have deep roots in our soul and in our flesh. However, every root of worldliness, ungodliness, and uncleanness will be rooted out by the power of His holiness. God will sanctify us completely.

This is the goal of the outworking of the holiness of God - that our entire being will be preserved blameless till the end. As we live out of our life in Christ, God will sanctify and preserve blameless every part of our being, holy unto Himself.