

Sanctification

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"You shall be holy unto me, for I the Lord am holy." Leviticus 20:26

What is sanctification?

	Hebrew	Greek
Adjective	<i>Qados</i> pure, devoted, holy, dedicated for a purpose	<i>Hagios</i> holy, set apart
Verb	<i>Qades</i> to sanctify, be holy	<i>Hagiazo</i> to sanctify, set apart for God
Noun	<i>Qodes</i> holiness, holy thing, sanctuary	<i>Hagiasmos</i> sanctification, holiness <i>Hagioi</i> saints, holy ones <i>Hagiosune</i> holiness

These words are all aspects of sanctification, which means to *set apart for God*.

Sanctification is concerned with separation from any evil use to be used solely for God's purposes.

The main purpose of sanctification is for Christians to be set apart from sin and the kingdom of darkness unto righteousness and the Kingdom of God. 1 Corinthians 1:30, 2 Thessalonians 2:13,14, Hebrews 12:14

For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. 1 Thessalonians 4:7.

How are we sanctified?

a. Through the blood of Christ Hebrews 10:14

There are many aspects to salvation: sanctification is just one of them. When Jesus died on the Cross and shed His blood He accomplished:

- identification Jesus became sin and represented all mankind before God. 2 Corinthians 5:21
- substitution Jesus died in our place. Romans 5:8
- atonement God's righteous anger at sin was fully satisfied through the shedding of Jesus blood. Romans 3:25
- redemption Jesus purchased us so we belong to God. The price paid was Jesus' blood. 1 Peter 1:18,19
- justification God declared us to be righteous in His sight. Romans 3:22
- reconciliation We were able to come back into fellowship with God. 2 Corinthians 5:17-19
- sanctification We were set apart for God's purposes. Hebrews 10:14

Our salvation means we have been set apart from sin, the devil and the world and that we are now in Christ, and able to freely fellowship with God. In being set apart to God we are His children; His special people; part of His family. 1 Peter 2:4-10

All of this is because of the perfect, finished work of Jesus on the Cross.

It is based on His merit, not on ours!

b. By the Holy Spirit 2 Thessalonians 2: 13,14

The blood of Jesus sets us apart legally, but the Holy Spirit sets us apart experientially.

The Holy Spirit works in us to bring us to God and to make us more and more like Jesus. He seeks to work out the righteousness we already have in God's sight (through justification) in our daily lives. 2 Corinthians 3:16-18.

This process of sanctification takes place at different stages:

- When we accept Christ 1 Corinthians 6:11, Romans 8:16,17. We are set apart for God, as His children.
- When the Holy Spirit deals with aspects of our lives, burning up the rubbish and refining us so that we are more and more pure. This can be a 'baptism of fire' (Luke 3:16,17)

See Romans 6:1-22. In order to 'die to sin' and become holy:

- Know that your old self was crucified with Christ v6
- Reckon that you are dead to sin and alive to God in Christ v 11
- Yield yourself to God in righteousness v13

As you repent of your sin and lay down your life on the altar before God, the Holy Spirit will come as a refining fire and purify your life. The result: *Sin shall not be your master.* v14 *You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.* v18 *The benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.* v22

(At various times in history there have been 'holiness' movements when the Holy Spirit has been poured out with great conviction leading to lots of repentance and refining of God's people). Acts 3:19-21

- In an ongoing way, all through our lives 1 Peter 1:2, 1Thessalonians 5:23

The work of the Holy Spirit is always to glorify Jesus. One of the main ways He does this is by working in our lives so we are able to live victoriously in Christ; free from the power of sin; alive to God; clean vessels through which He can do His will. ie. holy: set apart to God. 2 Corinthians 3:17,18

c. By belief in the truth 2 Thessalonians 2;13

Sanctification, like all other aspects of salvation, is by faith. We must believe what God says. John 17:17-19. This isn't an intellectual thing. By faith we apply God's truth and allow it to affect every part of our lives: our actions, behaviour, moral standards, frames of reference, decisions etc. All are set apart for God. 1 Peter 1:13-16, 1 Thessalonians 5:23,24. Often this takes place in acts of consecration. Romans 12:1,2.

What are the results of sanctification?

Sanctification is concerned with separation unto God. Lev 20:26

It means that we will be how God wants us to be and we will do what God wants us to do. In what we are, what we do and how we live we will be holy, ie. set apart for God. Luke 1:68-75, Ephesians 4:22-24, 2 Peter 3:11-13. As individuals and as a body of believers we can then relate to God as He wants us to. 1 Corinthians 3:16,17, Ephesians 2:21,22, 5:27, 1 Peter 2:9,10.

We will be SAINTS!

May He strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all His holy ones. 1 Thessalonians 3:13

Some confessions:

I've been saved. I am a Child of God: one of God's saints.

I am set apart for God, I belong to God.

I have been sanctified by the blood of Christ, and am being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

My whole spirit, soul and body will be kept blameless till the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.