

In a Word: Sanctify – John 17:17

Introduction

- The concept of sanctification, setting something aside as sacred or holy has been an act of God from the beginning.

Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made. (Genesis 2:3)

- Let's take a look at the word "sanctify"

I. Sanctify Defined

- a. Sanctify – Verb, to set apart
 - i. The word is almost exclusively used in a religious sense.
 - ii. To sanctify something is to set it apart for God's special use and purpose.
 - iii. Sanctification is then the act of sanctifying
- b. The word appears 82 times in the NKJV, however it appears 132 times in the AKJV.
 - i. Examples:

For I am the LORD your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy. (Leviticus 11:44 NKJV)

For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy... (Leviticus 11:44 AKJV)

- ii. In some cases the word "hollow" is used instead of sanctify when describing the Lord as in Isaiah 8:13.
- iii. It would seem however that in most cases, the word is used the same in the number of occurrences in the New Testament in both versions.

II. Sanctified by the Blood of Christ (Hebrews 10:10)

- a. Without the sacrifice of Jesus, we cannot be holy and set apart

(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. (Hebrews 10:9–10)

For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. (Hebrews 10:14)

- b. The one perfect offering of Christ took the place of the animal sacrifices of old
 - i. We should be thankful we don't have to bring livestock for sacrifices.

- c. Once as the old song says, “washed in the blood” we are sanctified.

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. (1 Corinthians 6:11)

- i. We are sanctified, justified, freed from sin by His blood, in His name and by the Spirit

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace... (Ephesians 1:7)

III. Sanctified by Faith in Christ (Acts 26:18)

- a. Faith plays a part in our sanctification

- i. As Jesus commissioned Saul to go to the Gentiles, He said...

“To open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.” (Acts 26:18)

- b. Sanctified, set apart by faith in Christ

- i. Without faith we cannot please God (Hebrews 11:6)
- ii. By faith we access God’s saving grace (Ephesians 2:8)

- c. Note the two things sanctified people have...

- i. The forgiveness of sins (through His blood)
- ii. An inheritance

(26) For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. (27) For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. (Galatians 3:26–27)

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. (1 John 3:1)

- d. We are set apart by faith in Christ

IV. Sanctified by the Truth (John 17:17)

- a. We are sanctified by God through His truth.

Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. (John 17:17)

And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth. (John 17:19)

- i. In His prayer for His disciples, Jesus asked them to be set apart by the truth
- ii. The Apostles would be guided into all truth...

However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. (John 16:13)

- b. The source of truth is God's word, the bible
 - i. The truth of God will also set us apart (sanctify) from the world
 - ii. It is our guide, our standard by which we live
 - iii. We must ask ourselves, what makes us different from everyone else in the world?
 - iv. What sets us apart? When we act in ways that please God, and against society's norms

(Love) does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth... (1 Corinthians 13:6)

V. Sanctify God in Your Heart

- a. Sanctified people will sanctify God...

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear... (1 Peter 3:15)

- b. Make room for God
 - i. Are lives are filled with obligations and distractions
 - 1. Work, family, pastimes
 - 2. Sometimes God gets squeezed out of our hearts.
- c. Jesus taught us about priorities, making God first...

"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. (Matthew 6:24)

- i. "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" (Matthew 6:33)

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. (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

- d. What's not in this lesson...
 - i. The sanctification by the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:16)
 - ii. The sanctification of the church (Ephesians 5:26)
 - iii. The sanctification of an unbelieving spouse by a believing one (1 Corinthians 7:14)
 - iv. The sanctification of food (1 Timothy 4:5)