

SANCTIFICATION

What is Sanctification and how does it work?

*1 Thess. 5:23. "May God Himself, the God of peace, **sanctify** you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ"*

REDEMPTION

JUSTIFICATION

RIGHTEOUSNESS

SANCTIFICATION

"Sanctification involves being set apart from evil and consecrated to God – for His purposes".

"Sanctification cannot be transferred or imputed, it is an individual possession, built up, little by little, as the result of obedience to the Word of God, and following the example of Christ." (W.E.Vines).

Sanctification is an ongoing work of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit in our lives following our Salvation and it is evidenced by our lives becoming more and more Christ-like.

It involves 'being made holy' (Holiness).

1. The three tenses of Salvation.

a) We 'have been saved': Regeneration, justification, righteousness, etc. *Rom. 5:1-2, 10:9-10; Eph. 2:8-10.*

b) We are 'being saved': Sanctification – the ongoing work of change and transformation. *Phil. 1:6, 2:13; Gal. 5:16-26; Eph. 4:17-5:33.*

c) We are 'yet to be saved': Our future transformation at the return of Christ and the resurrection of the saints. *1 Cor. 15:50-58.*

2. How does Sanctification work?

It is a process, an ongoing work, that takes place in and through a believer – after salvation! *Rom. 15:14-16.*

It is a work of the Word of God & the Holy Spirit in our lives.

As a believer we are free to choose to study the Word, to be instructed in the Word, to invite the Holy Spirit to work in us and surrender to the will and purposes of God!

The purpose of Sanctification is to bring us to maturity, 'Christ-likeness', holiness; in order to fulfill God's purpose in our lives.

Maturity is living in the fullness (or completeness) of the truth and light that we currently have.

3. An exhortation from Paul.

1 Thess. 4:1-12. Paul writes to the Church in Thessalonica in the context of many questions about the return of Christ.

V:1. 'We instructed you how to live to please God...'

V:3. 'It is God's will that you be sanctified: that you avoid sexual immorality.'

V:4. 'That each of you should learn how to control his own body in a way that is holy and honourable'

V:7. 'For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life'. (A sanctified life).'

V:8. 'Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you the Holy Spirit'

V:11-12. 'Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.'

In 1 Thess 5, Paul expresses clarity about being prepared for Christ's return.

This passage helps us to understand what a 'sanctified life' looks like!

V:6. 'So then, let us not be like others who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled.'

V:8. 'But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.'

V:12-24. Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. 13 Hold

*them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. 14 And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. 15 Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else. 16 Rejoice always, 17 Pray continually, 18 Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not treat prophecies with contempt 21 but test them all; hold on to what is good, 22 reject every kind of evil. 23 May God himself, the God of peace, **sanctify** you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.*

4. As we look on Him, we are transformed!

2 Cor. 3:8: 'And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.'

As we look on Him with our praise, adoration, thanks, worship, surrender and obedience we will be changed into His likeness.

We are being 'SANCTIFIED'! (Set apart for HIM).

In the words of the chorus...

“Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace!”

(Hymn: ‘The Heavenly Vision’, Helen Lemmel, 1918)