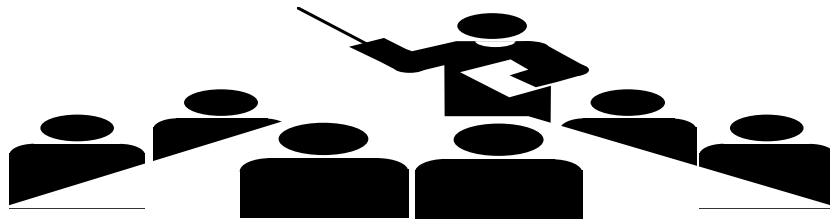


BIBLE STUDY SERIES



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Sanctification

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Sanctification

Lesson #1: Understanding Sanctification

Proposition: In order to go back to the basics in kingdom building, we must have a clear and accurate understanding of what sanctification is.

SANCTIFICATION [QUOTATIONS]

- We are saved and sanctified for God, not to be specimens in his showroom, but for God to do with us ever as he did with Jesus—make us broken bread and poured out wine as he chooses.
OSWALD CHAMBERS (1874–1917)
- When in his mercy God leads a soul in the higher path of sanctification, he begins by stripping it of all self-confidence, and to this end he allows our own schemes to fail, our judgment to mislead us. We grope and totter and make countless mistakes until we learn wholly to mistrust ourselves and to put all our confidence in him.
JEAN NICOLAS GROU (1731–1803)

SANCTIFICATION [DEFINITIONS]

- Sanctification (Hebrew (qds) and Greek (hagias-) to make holy: roots represented in AV by "sanctify, holy, hallow," and varied in RSV by "consecrate, dedicate," are applied to any person, place, occasion, or object "set apart" from common, secular use as devoted to some divine power.
- Sanctification is the divine process by which Christians become more and more like Christ. It is a divine process because the changes in the life of the Christian are produced by the Holy Spirit (1 Peter 1:2). Those changes are not the result of self-improvement efforts or re-imagining. They are the result of the power of God renewing the heart and mind of the Christian. In the Christian's sanctification, God's resurrection power is at work on a renewal project.

I. Sanctification Explored

- A. The goal: the likeness of Christ [God demonstrated his purpose in creating us in His image (Gen. 1:26)]
- B. The aim: to "grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ" (Eph 4:15)
- C. The model: the life of Christ
- D. The means: the Holy Spirit
- E. The method: a daily walk with God through prayer, Bible study, Christian fellowship, and worship

II. Sanctification and Consecration (Romans 12:1)

- A. It is becoming a "living sacrifice"
- B. It is living a life that is "holy and pleasing to God,"
- C. It is our "spiritual act of worship"

III. Sanctification: God's will for us (1 Thess. 4:3-7) God wants us to "be sanctified," which means putting away all forms of immorality and impurity and living a "holy life."

IV. Sanctification: a process: Sanctification begins the moment of conversion and continues until the end of ones life. Regeneration is instantaneous, but sanctification is a process. It is never complete in this life. We eagerly await the redemption of the body, which comes either with death or the return of Christ (Rom 8:22-23).

V. Sanctification and Spiritual Warfare: Sanctification is a struggle between two forces at work in the life of the Christian: the old nature and the new nature. The Christian's new nature desires to do God's will, but the old nature refuses to go along. There is warfare within the Christian's heart (see Rom 7:15-24; Gal 5:17), but with God's help, the new nature eventually overcomes the old. In both Romans 7:25 and Galatians 5:22-25, Paul concludes on the note of victory over sin in this life through the power of the Holy Spirit; "the law of the Spirit

of life has set me free from the law of sin and death” (Rom 8:2). Does the Christian ever completely overcome his or her old nature? The Bible gives little hope of that, this side of heaven.

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Lesson #2 A Scriptural View of Sanctification

Proposition: In order to go back to the basics in kingdom building, we must embrace the scriptural view of what sanctification entails.

I. The Holy Spirit gives us the heart purity that makes sanctification possible. (Ezekiel 36:25-27)

- A. Baptism is an outward symbol of the inward purity that accompanies our new birth. (25)
- B. Regeneration involves the imparting of God’s nature into our hearts as believers. (26)
- C. Conversion results in our being indwelt by the presence of the Holy Spirit of God. (27)
- D. The indwelling Holy Spirit enables us to live according to God’s commandments. (27)

II. The grace of God gives us the motivation we need to seek sanctification. (Titus 2:11-14)

- A. The grace of God makes salvation a gift that is offered to all of us. (11)
- B. The grace of God teaches us how to pursue holiness in this present age. (12)
 - 1. The grace of God teaches how to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts.
 - 2. The grace of God teaches how to live soberly, righteously, and godly.
- C. The grace of God motivates us to live for Christ. (13-14)
 - 1. The immanent return of Christ inspires us to live for Him.
 - 2. The sacrificial death of Christ motivates us to live for Him.
 - 3. The redemption of Christ inspires us to live for Him.
 - a. He redeemed us from every lawless deed.
 - b. He purified us for Himself- His own special people, zealous for good works

III. The church gives us the nurture we need to make progress in sanctification. (1 Thess. 4:1-8)

- A. In the church we are encouraged to live in a manner that pleases God. (1)
- B. In the church we are taught to obey the commandments of the Lord. (2)
- C. In the church we are challenged to pursue holiness. (3-8)
 - 1. Sanctification or holiness is God’s will for us. (3)
 - 2. Our sex life should be an expression of our holiness. (3-6)
 - a. We must abstain from sexual immorality.
 - b. We must control our own bodies honorably.
 - c. We must live differently from unbelievers who live in the passion of lust.
 - d. We must never take advantage of people, for we know that God will avenge.
 - 3. God calls us to holiness not uncleanness. (7)
 - 4. Rejection of this divine calling is a rejection of God, who gave us His Spirit. (8)

IV. Sanctification is all about being set apart for God’s purposes. (2 Timothy 2:19-22)

- A. When we depart from iniquity, it shows that we really belong to the Lord. (19)
- B. When we purge ourselves from worldliness, we become vessels of honor. (20-21)
 - 1. We will be sanctified and useful to the master.
 - 2. We will be prepared for every good work.

- (22) C. When we flee youthful lusts and pursue righteousness our prayer life and worship are enhanced.

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Lesson #3: The Role of Accountability in Sanctification

Proposition: In order to go back to the basics in kingdom building, we must put into practice what we know about sanctification by means of small-group discipleship.

I. Wesley Greatest Fear:

Wesley once said " *I do not fear that the people called Methodist shall ever cease to exist, I only fear that they shall exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion, but not the power thereof and that undoubtedly will be the case unless they hold fast to the **DOCTRINE, DISCIPLINE and SPIRIT** with which they first set out.*"

II. Disciple making is the process that enables believers to pursue Scriptural holiness. (Mt. 28:18-20)

- A. We must place disciple making at the heart of the church. (Matthew 28:19)
- B. We must clearly communicate the roles of the pastor, people, and disciple-making process.
 - 1. The pastor must be devoted to the following:
 - a. The ministry of the word and prayer (Acts 6:1-7)
 - b. The training and deployment of leaders [disciple makers] (2 Tim. 2:2)
 - c. The equipping of the saints (Ephesians 4:11,12)
 - d. The management of the ministry (1 Pet. 5:1-5)
 - 2. The people must be devoted to the following: (Eph. 4:11-16)
 - a. Works of ministry
 - b. Spiritual growth
 - c. Pastoral care
 - d. Church growth
 - 3. The disciple-making must produce the following
 - a. Mature disciples
 - b. Responsible disciples
 - c. Reproducing disciples.

III. Using the small group as the primary means of disciple making

- A. It provides an environment where peers can help us keep our commitments.
- B. It provides an environment where we will be accountable and responsible for how our souls prosper.
 - 1. How am I prospering in my prayer life?
 - 2. How am I prospering in my personal study of God's word?
 - 3. What are my areas of struggle?
 - 4. What are my areas of victory?
 - 5. How am I prospering in my personal witness? [word, deed, or sign]
 - 6. How am I prospering in my personal ministry?

- C. It provides an environment where we can be trained to do outreach ministry.
- D. It provides an environment where we can do pastoral care.