

Many people think that the aim of Christianity is to get people to become something they are not. The scriptures actually call believers to become something ...

Examples:

Paul's letter to the Corinthians:

1 Corinthians 1:2 (ESV)

² To the church of God that is in Corinth, **to those sanctified in Christ Jesus**, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours ...

Jesus' words to the disciples:

John 15:3-5 (ESV)

³ **Already you are clean** because of the word that I have spoken to you.

⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Temple vessels:

2 Chronicles 29:18-19 (ESV)

¹⁸ Then they went in to Hezekiah the king and said, "We have cleansed all the house of the LORD, the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, and the table for the showbread and all its utensils. ¹⁹ All the utensils that King Ahaz discarded in his reign when he was faithless, we have made ready and consecrated ("sanctified" in KJV), and behold, they are before the altar of the LORD."

Our sanctification then, begins with the justifying work of Christ, conveyed to us through the Spirit and the Word, and received by faith alone, but not a faith that is _____!

Once Christ has "set us apart" unto Himself, the ongoing work of sanctification begins.

Sanctification:

In the New Testament, sanctification is also depicted as an ongoing work within believers that renews us inwardly and conforms us gradually into the likeness of Christ.

Hebrews 10:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who **are being sanctified**.

2 Peter 1:2-11 (ESV)

² May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. ³ His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴ by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. ⁵ For this very reason, **make every effort** to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷ and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. ⁸ For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. ¹⁰ Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. ¹¹ For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We are holy, therefore we are to be holy. Make sense?

Sanctification: Our _____ with God's Activity

1. God's role:

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (ESV)

²³ Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 2:13 (ESV)

¹³ ... it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Hebrews 13:20-21 (ESV)

²⁰ Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, ²¹ equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

2. Our role:

Passively ... **Romans 6:13 (ESV)**

¹³ Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

Actively ... **Romans 8:13 (ESV)**

¹³ 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.

Also, see: Rom 12:1-13:14, Eph. 4:17-6:20, Phil 4:4-9, Col 3:5-4:6, 1 Peter 1:11-5:11, Heb 12:14, etc.

The how* of sanctification:

_____ – Ps 1:2, Matt 4:4, John 17:7

_____ – Eph 6:18, Phil 4:6

_____ – Eph 5:18-20

_____ – Matt 28:19-20, Philemon 1:6

_____ – Hebrews 10:24-25

_____ – Gal 5:23, Titus 1:8

The reward of sanctification: _____ and _____!

The more we grow in likeness to Christ, the more we experience of His joy!

Galatians 5:22-25 (ESV)

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, **joy, peace**, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

Romans 6:22 (ESV)

²² But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.

Romans 14:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and **peace and joy** in the Holy Spirit.

Theology is for **doxology** and **devotion**—that is, the praise of God and the practice of godliness.

- J.I. Packer

NEXT WEEK: **Perseverance**