

Sanctification

Sanctification is a subject, much misunderstood in the church. In this portion of our 2020 Ministers Conference Seminars, my hope is to clear up the mystery surrounding sanctification and its related terms holy and holiness.

For reference purposes, let me share a few Strong's definitions for the key words.

The Greek word translated sanctified, sanctifieth and sanctify is **hagiozo (Strong's #37)**. It is found 29 times in the New Testament. It is translated sanctify (in some variation) 26 times, hallow 2 times and be holy once. It comes from the Greek Word hagios (Strong's #40).¹ It means:

To make holy, consecrate, sanctify

1) to dedicate, separate, set apart for God

1a) Of things [Mt 23:17,9 2Ti 2:21]

1b) Of persons: Christ [Joh 10:36 17:19]

2) To purify, make conformable in character to such dedication

¹The Greek word "hagios", Strong's #40) comes from hagos (an awful thing). It is an adjective found 229 times in the New Testament and translated holy 161 times, saints 61 times, Holy One 4 times and various other ways 3 times. It means holy, characteristic of God, separated to God, worthy of veneration.

1) Its highest application is to God himself, in his purity, majesty and glory. [Lu 1:49 Joh 17:11 Re 4:8]

1a) Of things and places which have a claim to reverence as sacred to God, e.g. the Temple: [Mt 24:15 Heb 9:1]

1b) Of persons employed by him, as angels: [1Th 3:13] prophets, [Lu 1:70] apostles, [Eph 3:5]

2) Applied to persons as separated to God's service:

2a) Of Christ: [Mr 1:24 Ac 4:30]

2b) Of Christians: [Ac 9:13 Ro 1:7 Heb 6:10 Re 5:8]

3) In the moral sense of sharing God's purity: [Mr 6:20 Joh 17:11 Ac 3:14 Re 3:7]

4) Of pure, clean sacrifices and offerings: [1Co 7:14 Eph 1:4]

For Synonyms see entry 5878

2a) Forensically, to free from guilt [1Co 6:11 Eph 5:26 Heb 2:11 10:10,14,29 13:12]

2b) Internally, by actual sanctification of life [Joh 17:17,19 Ac 20:32 26:18 Ro 15:16 1Co 1:2 7:14 1Th 5:23 Re 22:11]

2c) Of a non-believer influenced by marriage with a Christian [1Co 7:14]

3) In the intermediate sense of ceremonial or levitical purification

3a) Of things [2Ti 2:21]

3b) Of persons [Heb 9:13]

4) To treat as holy [Mt 6:9 Lu 11:2 1Pe 3:15]

The Greek word translated sanctification is **hagiasmos (Strong's #38)**. It is a masculine noun that comes from the Greek Word hagiozo (Strong's #37). It is found 10 times in the New Testament. It is translated sanctification 5 times and holiness 5 times. It means

1) consecration

2) sanctification: so strictly in [Ro 6:19,22 1Co 1:30 1Th 4:3,7 2Th 2:13 Heb 12:14 1Pe 1:2]. Elsewhere it perhaps inclines to the resultant state. [1Th 4:4 1Ti 2:15].

The **Hebrew word qadash (Strong's #06942)** is a primitive root verb found 172 times in the Old Testament. It is translated sanctify 108 times, hallow 25 times, dedicate 10 times, holy 7 times, prepare 7 times, consecrate 5 times, appointed 1 time, bid 1 time, purified 1 time and various other ways 7 times. It means

1) to consecrate, sanctify, prepare, dedicate, be hallowed, be holy, be sanctified, be separate

1a) (Qal)

1a1) to be set apart, be consecrated

1a2) to be hallowed

1a3) consecrated, tabooed

1b) (Niphal)

1b1) to show oneself sacred or majestic

1b2) to be honoured, be treated as sacred

1b3) to be holy

1c) (Piel)

- 1c1) to set apart as sacred, consecrate, dedicate
- 1c2) to observe as holy, keep sacred
- 1c3) to honour as sacred, hallow
- 1c4) to consecrate

1d) (Pual)

- 1d1) to be consecrated
- 1d2) consecrated, dedicated

1e) (Hiphil)

- 1e1) to set apart, devote, consecrate
- 1e2) to regard or treat as sacred or hallow
- 1e3) to consecrate

1f) (Hithpael)

- 1f1) to keep oneself apart or separate
- 1f2) to cause Himself to be hallowed (of God)
- 1f3) to be observed as holy
- 1f4) to consecrate oneself

There are more than 200 scriptures that relate sanctification so I will not go through them all here. Let me lay out a few common usages to help frame the discussion.

1. **Sanctification is the work of God not of man.**

1Co 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

2Th 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through **sanctification of the Spirit** and belief of the truth:

1Pe 1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through **sanctification of the Spirit**, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

Ro 15:16 That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

Joh 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Joh 17:19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

1Th 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and [I pray God] your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Heb 2:11 For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified [are] all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,

Heb 10:10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once [for all].

Heb 10:14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

Heb 13:12 Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.

2. **Instances in which sanctification is used in some manner pertaining to what we do are highlighted below.**

A. Abstaining from fornication.

1Th 4:3 For this is the will of God, [even] your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

1Th 4:4 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;

B. Sanctifying God in our hearts

1Pe 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and [be] ready always to [give] an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

See also 2 Timothy 2 as verse 21 says

2Ti 2:21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, [and] prepared unto every good work.

3. **All believers are to be sanctified**

Paul's defense before King Agrippa

Ac 26:18 To open their eyes, [and] to turn [them] from darkness to light, and [from] the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins,

and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Eph 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

Jude 1:1 Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, [and] called:

4. **Old Testament.**

In the old testament there many more examples, including examples of

- A. People (i.e. the Levites) being sanctified (i.e. set aside for God's service). See e.g. Exodus 28:41 and 29:1-37
- B. Firstborn (including of beasts). Deuteronomy 15:19
- C. Things (i.e. the implements of the sanctuary, land, etc...). See e.g. Exodus 40:1-15, Leviticus 8:1-36 and Leviticus 27:1-25.

In the end, it was always God who sanctified not man. See e.g. Exodus 31:13, Leviticus 20:7-8 and Ezekial 20:12. The error of the Jews on this matter was highlighted by Jesus when He rebuked them concerning their oaths in Matthew 23:17 & 19 as set forth below.

Mt 23:17 [Ye] fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gold, or the temple that sanctifieth the gold?

Mt 23:19 [Ye] fools and blind: for whether [is] greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifieth the gift?

