**SANCTIFICATION**

**What is sanctification?**

1. Sanctification entails the setting aside of someone or something to be devoted entirely to God. The same Greek word is also translated “holiness” which expresses the same idea. A person who is sanctified is a “saint” or “holy one”.

**Sanctification in Old Testament**

1. In the O.T. sanctification referred to the act by which vessels (Exod. 29. 37) or persons (Exod. 19:10, 14) were set apart to the service of God. The Sabbath was a holy day because it was separated from other days (Gen. 2:3). The act of separation does not necessarily involve a change in the nature of the object of sanctification. Thus the Lord Jesus could sanctify Himself though no change in His personal holiness occurred (John 17:19).

**Sanctification in the New Testament**

1. A common name for describing Christians in the N.T. is “saint”. This means a “holy” one. The word “saint” describes every Christian and is not a status which is gradually attained. Thus believers whose lives were very dubious were described as “saints” (1 Cor. 1:2, 30; 6. 11). This indicates that every believer is set apart to God.
2. In the Scriptures food (1Tim 4:5), marriage (1 Cor. 7:14), the temple and the altar (Matt 23:17, 19) are both spoken of as being sanctified. There are also certain things which are described as being holy, including: prophets (2 Peter 3:2), women (1 Peter 3:5), men (2 Peter 1:21), the priesthood (1 Peter 2:5), and apostles (Eph 3:5).

**Sanctification distinct from Justification**

1. Surprisingly there are many who argue that sanctification and justification are synonymous. While it is true that they occur simultaneously at salvation they clearly refer to different aspects of salvation. Justification involves God removing our guilt whereas sanctification involves His dedicating of the believer to service.

**Positional Sanctification**

1. Sanctification describes a status or position given on conversion that has no direct connection to personal holiness (Acts 20. 32; Eph. 5:26; Heb. 10. 10).

**Practical Sanctification**

1. It is also true however that scripture anticipates that what Christians are positionally they should be practically (Romans 6:19; 12:1; 1 Thess. 4. 3; 1 Pet 1:15, 16). Thus Christians should not be involved in activities that are sinful or detract from their service to God.

**Pre-conversion sanctification**

1. Sanctification sometimes refers to God’s activities before conversion in setting apart someone for a work of the Spirit (1 Pet. 1:2; 2 Thess. 2:13). This does not mean that they are saints before conversion but that God takes special dealings with them.

**Prospective Sanctification**

1. This is God’s ultimate purpose for us (1 John 3:2; Rom 8:29). One day we will be holy and without a trace of sin.

**Sanctification – Key Scriptures**

* **Is a privilege given to every believer**

1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, 2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours: **1 Cor 1:1-2**

* **Is a work of God**

9 … Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

**1 Cor 6:9-11**

* **Is a truth we should seek to live out**

19 I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.

**Rom 6:19**

* **Is particularly seen in moral purity**

3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

**1 Thess 4:3**

* **Was purposed from eternity**

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. **1 Peter 1:2**