

Are You Sanctified?

Jude 1

I. INTRODUCTION: I

1. **2** The words *sanctify* (6) or *sanctified* (16) are used 22 times in the NT.
2. The words *sanctify* (30) and *sanctified* (21) are also commonly used in the OT (51 times).
3. These two words have been so badly abused and so often given a wrong meaning, that their true meaning and value have been, to a large degree, lost to the people of God.
4. ****** The words are used to describe:
 - ☛ The seventh day: Gen. 2:3
 - ☛ God's people Israel: Ex. 19:14
 - ☛ The tabernacle: Ex. 29:43
 - ☛ The firstborn: Num. 3:13
 - ☛ The priests: 2 Chr. 5:11
 - ☛ Old Testament sacrifices: Ex. 29:36
 - ☛ God: Ezek. 38:23
5. ****** Many times in the New Testament it is applied to Christians.

I Cor. 1:2: "To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:"

I Cor. 6:11: "And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God."
6. **3** Due to its great importance and essentiality in a Christian's life; let's study sanctification today.

II. DISCUSSION:

1. **4** What is sanctification?

- A. Definition: Derived from the Greek word *hagios*: basic meaning is "set apart."
- (1) Something or someone worthy of veneration (e.g., **Lk. 1:49:** "For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name."; note: *sanctified* = *holy*).
 - (2) Things that have some connection with God and thus possess a certain distinction and claim to reverence (e.g., **Acts 7:33:** "Then the Lord said to him, 'Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.'").
 - (3) Used of persons whose services God employs; those who are set apart by Him (Lk. 2:23; **I Cor. 1:2:** "To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:").
 - (4) Used in a moral sense, pure, sinless, upright, holy: **I Pet. 1:15-16:** "but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy.'").
- B. ****** To set apart for a special purpose; to dedicate to Jehovah; to consecrate; to make holy; to separate from other things or persons.

2. **5** Sanctification in the New Testament:

- A. **The church:** from *ekklesia* (*ek* = out of, *klesia* = to call; a called out people; separate people).

1 Cor. 1:2: “To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:”

Eph. 5:25-26: “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,”

1 Pet. 2:9-10: “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.”

1 Cor. 6:9-11: “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”

(1) ** The Lord called His people the “church” (Matt. 16:18).

(a) Jesus told His disciples:

Jn. 15:19: “If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.”

Jn. 17:15-18: “I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”

(b) ** The church consists of “called out” people, people set apart unto God.

1 Pet. 2:9-10: “...called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.”

Titus 2:13-14: “...our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.”

Jude 1: “Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ:”

2 Pet. 1:2-3: “Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,”

1 Thess. 5:23-24: “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.”

(2) ** The church is a sanctified group of people! Acts 2:47; Eph. 1:22-23 4:4; 5:23

B. 6 Every Christian:

(1) Christians are set apart for the Master’s use:

2 Tim. 2:19-21: “Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: ‘The Lord knows those who are His,’ and, ‘Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.’ 20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. 21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from

the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.”

- (2) ** The Lord can only use the Christian who keeps himself pure and prepared:

2 Tim. 2:22: “Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”

1 Tim. 5:22: “Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure.”

Rom. 12:1–2: “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

- (3) ** The Christian is to have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness:

Eph. 5: 11: “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.”; cf. 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1

- (4) ** God always sanctifies men that He uses:

(a) Levites: Num. 8:14-18

(c) Samuel: 1 Sam. 1:11

(b) Samson: Judges 13:2-5, 7

(d) John the Baptist: Lk. 1:15–17

- (5) ** The Christian is completely sanctified more than all others; set apart by blood!

(a) Blood-bought:

1 Cor. 6:20: “For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.”

1 Pet. 1:18–19: “knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”

(b) Blood-washed:

Rev. 1:5b-6: “To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, 6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

- (6) **7** A Christian exemplifies sanctification: A Christian, in view of this sanctification, should be a power for good in the service of God.

(a) ** God wants to bless men through us:

Gen. 12:1-3: “Now the LORD had said to Abram:

‘Get out of your country,
From your family
And from your father's house,
To a land that I will show you.
2 I will make you a great nation;
I will bless you
And make your name great;
And you shall be a blessing.
3 I will bless those who bless you,
And I will curse him who curses you;

And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

- (b) Has he? **Gal. 3:9:** *“So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.”*

Jas. 2:20-24: *“But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? 22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? 23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, ‘Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.’ And he was called the friend of God. 24 You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.”* (Abraham is the model!)

Gal. 3:26-29: *“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.”*

- (c) ****** Are we fit? Are we up to the task?

2 Tim. 2:21: *“Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.”*

Rom. 6:1-4: *“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? 3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”*

3. **8** Three ways Christians are separate: God's people are much different than people of the world and people of the denominational world.

A. **** In doctrine:**

- (1) It never ceases to amaze me how much the teaching of the New Testament differs from what we see in the “denominational world.” (Some have trouble with that!)

- (a) Shouldn't come as a shock: Rom. 15:4

Lev. 10:10: *“that you may distinguish between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean,”*

Ezek. 22:26: *“Her priests have violated My law and profaned My holy things; they have not distinguished between the holy and unholy, nor have they made known the difference between the unclean and the clean; and they have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them.”*

- (b) Same is true today:

2 Tim. 4:1-4: *“I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.”*

- (c) It pains me that otherwise sincere, good people consistently reject and minimize God's Word, the truth (e.g., baptism, instrumental music, etc., etc.):

1 Tim. 6:3-5: “If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, 4 he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, 5 useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself.”

Gal. 1:6-9: “I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.”

- (d) No matter how much it distresses us to be different, we have no choice but to preach and practice the truth!

Titus 2:1: “But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine:”

2 Tim. 1:13: “Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.”

1 Tim. 4:6: “If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed.”

Phil. 3:17: “Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.”

- (e) God’s truly set apart people can practice no other doctrine but the doctrine of Christ:

2 Jn. 9-11: “Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; 11 for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.”

- (2) If Christians practice the doctrine of men, they cease to be a separate people to God.

B. ** In worship:

- (1) God’s sanctified people (set apart) do not worship God with the doctrines of men:

☛ Vain worship: **Matt. 15:9-14:** “And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ 10 When He had called the multitude to Himself, He said to them, ‘Hear and understand: 11 Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man.’ 12 Then His disciples came and said to Him, ‘Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?’ 13 But He answered and said, ‘Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. 14 Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.’”

☛ Will worship: **Col. 2:20-23:** “Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules: 21 ‘Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!’? 22 These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings. 23 Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and

their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.” (NIV)

- (2) The worship of God’s *sanctified* people is characterized by simplicity:
- (a) No shows, no entertainment; the worshipers are not spectators!
 - (b) No human methods of raising money (e.g., chili suppers, rummage sales, raffles or bingo); each Christian just gives as he has been prospered (1 Cor. 16:2).
 - (c) We praise God in song without the aid of mechanical instruments of music (Eph. 5:19); no paid singers or robed choirs (Not Col. 2:20ff BUT 1 Pet. 4:11).
 - (d) They teach the simple gospel (Rom. 1:16-17; 10:17; Acts 2: 42).
 - (e) They observe the Lord’s Supper every Lord’s Day (Acts 2:42; 20:7); they eat it on no other day.
 - (f) Their worship follows the simple New Testament pattern (Jn. 4:24; Col. 3:17; 1 Pet. 4:11; Matt. 28:18; Lk. 6:46; Jn. 14:15).

Jn. 15:14: *“You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.”*

Jn. 14:23-24: *“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. 24 He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me.”*

C. ** In life:

- (1) There is no doubt that God’s *sanctified* people are set apart by their doctrine, worship, work and organization of the church, etc.
- (2) But if that is all that separates us from the world; we are total hypocrites!
- (3) God’s people must also be separate in their manner of life:

2 Cor. 6:16b-7:1: *“As God has said:*

*‘I will dwell in them
And walk among them.
I will be their God,
And they shall be My people.’*

*17 Therefore
‘Come out from among them
And be separate, says the Lord.
Do not touch what is unclean,
And I will receive you.’*

*18 ‘I will be a Father to you,
And you shall be My sons and daughters,
Says the Lord Almighty.’*

7:1: Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

Rom. 12:1-2: *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”*

Titus 2:11-12: “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,”

Jas. 4:4: “Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”; cf. Matt. 5: 13-16

1 Thess. 4:3-5: “For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, 5 not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God;”

1 Jn. 3:16-17: “By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17 But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?”

Jn. 13:34-35: “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

III. CONCLUSION: 9

1. Are you “sanctified”?
 - A. Sanctified by being washed in the blood of Christ? 1 Cor. 6:20; Matt. 16:18; Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 2:9-10
 - B. Sanctified by following only the teaching of the New Testament? Jn. 17:19; 2 Jn. 9-11
 - C. Sanctified by worshipping God according to the New Testament pattern; “in spirit and truth”? Jn. 4:24
 - D. Sanctified by your manner of living? 1 Pet. 1:15-16; 2 Cor. 7:1
2. Invitation

—Adapted from a sermon (A Sanctified or Separate People) by Donald Townsley.