

Pastor Robert Rutta

Sanctification

Joh 17:15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

Joh 17:16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

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

Jesus prayed for His disciples, and us, to be sanctified by His Word.

“Sanctification” means that something is set apart for a special purpose.

Gen 2:3 The Sabbath was set apart by God.

Ex 29:37 The altar was to be sanctified and wasn't to be touched by anything that was not sanctified.

Num 7:1 On the day the tabernacle was set up it was sanctified along with everything used in it.

God set these things apart for His service.

Sanctification doesn't mean perfect.

Because something is set apart for God doesn't mean that it is perfect.

Illus. This pulpit is set apart for God's work, but not perfect.

These chairs are set apart.

These song books are set apart.

As believers, we are to be set apart for God.

There are three ways that we are sanctified.

I. We Have Been Sanctified I Cor 1:2; Heb 10:10,14

When you receive Christ as Saviour you are set apart for Heaven.

It is all settled.

You are God's child, so He prepares a place in Heaven for you.

You are sanctified for Heaven.

We call this **positional sanctification**.

This is the same thing as justification.

II. We Are Being Sanctified I Thess 4:3,4

While we are positionally holy, we know that we still sin (1 John 1:10). That's why the Bible also refers to sanctification as a practical experience of our separation unto God.

This has several different names.

We call it **practical sanctification** (or it is also sometimes called “progressive” or “experiential” sanctification).

This is the effect of obedience to the Word of God in our life.

It is the same as growing in grace (2 Peter 3:18) or spiritual maturity.

2Pe 3:18 But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him *be* glory both now and for ever. Amen.

God started the work of making us like Christ, and He is continuing it.

Php 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:

This is a continual work as we apply the Word of God to our lives.

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

An artist paints on a canvas what is already in his mind or in front of him.

The picture doesn't appear at once, but little by little.

The Holy Spirit uses Christ as our model and seeks to gradually conform us to His image.

That is what He wants to do, but we have to choose whether we want to be set apart and to what extent.

We can stop it if we choose.

God never forces Himself on anyone, whether it be in salvation or in Christian growth.

You are to be improving, trying to be like Christ.

We are expected to grow.

It is a continual and gradual process.

In I Cor 13:13 we are told of three things that we should see increasing in our lives.

“And now abideth **faith, hope, charity**, these three; but the greatest of these *is* charity.”

As you grow in grace, these are some of the things that should be increasing.

- Faith Can Increase

2Th 1:3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;

Faith involves intellectual assent to a set of facts and trust in those facts.

The greater and stronger your faith, the more you can do for God.

Many of the trials that you face are there to help your faith to grow.

They make you trust Him more.

That is part of your sanctification.

- Hope Can Increase

Rom 15:13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Biblical hope is built on faith.

Hope is the earnest anticipation that comes with believing something good. Hope is a confident expectation that naturally stems from faith.

Jesus promised that He will come again.

I believe what He said by faith.

I anticipate, look for and long for, His return and it now is something that I hope in.

Jesus' return is our “blessed hope” (Titus 2:13- we can't see Him yet, but we know He's coming, and we anticipate that event with joy.

1Jn 2:25 “And this is the promise that he hath promised us, *even* eternal life.”

We've been given a promise that we can have faith in – we have eternal life in Christ.

1Jn 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

1Jn 3:3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

When that faith becomes something that I not only believe, but long for, it changes into hope.

Our hope is to increase.

We are to change more and more of our lives from faith to hope.

- Love Can Increase

1Th 3:12 And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all *men*, even as we *do* toward you:

1Th 3:13 To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

Our love is supposed to increase and abound.

God is love. The more of Him we have abiding in us and the more He is able to control us, the more love we will display.

B. Sanctification implies that we are dead to sin.

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

The death of crucifixion was a long, lingering death.

The crucifixion of sin is a long, lingering process.

It takes your whole life.

C. Sanctification implies that the will of the Christian is more and more conformed to His will.

If sin had not entered into the universe, there would be only one will – the will of God.

Jesus taught us to pray, “Thy will be done in earth as it is in Heaven.” Matt 6:10

Sin is when we do our own will instead of His.

As we allow the Holy Spirit to set us apart to God, we will conform more and more of our life to His will.

Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.

Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

D. As you look at your life, there are certain evidences of the work of sanctification.

1. A deeper sensitivity to our sin and sinful situations.

This is how Paul felt about himself.

The more he grew in Christ, the more he noticed his own sin and was repulsed by it.

Eph 3:8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

1Ti 1:15 This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

The more progress you make, the more unworthy that you feel.

2. An increasing hatred of sin.

Rom 12:9 Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

DISSIMULATION, The act of dissembling; a hiding under a false appearance; a feigning; false pretension; hypocrisy.

Sin is the opposite of holiness.

The more you love God, the more hatred you have for sin.

Don't fake your love for God.

Love Him truly and hate sin.

As the work of sanctification goes on, your hatred for your own sin increases.

3. An increasing love for the things of God.

Col 3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Col 3:2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Col 3:3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

Col 3:4 When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

We have died to sin and been and raised by Christ to a new life.

Our love for Him should cause us to seek more and more the things that are above.

III. We Will Be Sanctified

There is a third sense in which the word *sanctification* is used in Scripture—a “complete” or “ultimate” **sanctification**.

This is the same as glorification.

Psa 17:15 As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.

When will we be completely sanctified and be in His likeness?

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.

1Th 3:13 To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

1Jn 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

We will be completely sanctified when He comes again.

We have been sanctified. Positionally I am sanctified.

We are being sanctified. Practically I am being sanctified.

We will be sanctified. We will be completely sanctified when we are in His presence.