

Sanctification

Hebrews 10:14

because by one sacrifice he has made perfect
forever those who are being made holy.

Perfect Forever

It is no small thing that God has “sanctified” or made perfect-holy(without sin), those who are in Christ. Indeed for those who have come to Him, they are “Holy and Blameless” in *position* before God. ***The sacrifice of Christ has completely covered over the sin of His people and His sinless life of perfect righteousness has been imputed to their account.*** Christ Jesus is a perfect priest who accomplished a perfect mediation between God and man. We can have confidence and assurance before God because of what Christ has done. Jesus has merited for us eternal salvation by His broken body and shed blood. The debt of our sins has been paid in full, the wrath of God on our behalf has been satisfied.

Hebrews 10:10 - 10 And by that will, we **have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.** NIV

1 Corinthians 1:30 - 30 It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God-that is, **our righteousness, holiness** and redemption. NIV

Colossians 1:21-22 - 22 But now he has **reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation-NIV**

1 Corinthians 6:11 - But you were washed, **you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.** NIV

Being made holy

Indeed it is true that Christ Jesus died to sanctify and cleanse us from our sins and that through Him we have been justified – (declared righteous). ***Although we have been sanctified in position before God, the Lord is actively sanctifying us in our conduct and practice.*** The work of salvation is continuing in those of us who are actually “being saved.” God is the active agent in this process. We as humans are no more capable of sanctifying ourselves as we are of saving ourselves. Without the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, we would be powerless against temptation and sin, continuing to trample the grace of God under our feet. This practical aspect of salvation will not be completed until the resurrection of our bodies.

Phil 1:6 - 6 being confident of this, that **he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.** NIV

John 17:17 - 17 **Sanctify them by the truth;** your word is truth. NIV

John 17:19 - 19 For them **I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.** NIV

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 - 23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 The **one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.** NIV

1 Corinthians 1:8-9 - 8 **He will keep you strong to the end,** so that you will be **blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.** NIV

Purify Ourselves

Although it true that in Christ we have been justified - (declared righteous), and also that God is the One who continues to sanctify us by His Spirit, nevertheless we are commanded to pursue righteousness and holiness in our conduct. ***We are admonished again and again to be holy and to purify ourselves by remaining in repentance.*** This is the practical aspect of salvation, we are to pursue Christ in our behavior and to bring honor to His name by our holy and righteous conduct.

2 **Corinthians 7:1** - 7:1 Since we have these promises, dear friends, **let us purify ourselves** from everything that contaminates body and spirit, **perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.** NIV
1 John 3:3 - 3 Everyone who has this hope in him **purifies himself**, just as he is pure. NIV
1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 - 3 It is **God's will that you should be sanctified**: that you should avoid sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should **learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable**, 5 not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; 6 and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you. 7 **For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.** 8 Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit. NIV
Leviticus 20:26 - 26 **You are to be holy to me because I, the LORD, am holy**, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own. NIV
2 Peter 3:14-15 - 14 So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, **make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.** NIV

Confessing our sins

As we live in this fallen world, we will continue to struggle with sin. We frequently sin against God in thought, word and deed. ***Whenever we sin it is important for us to agree with God concerning our sin, this is called confession.*** We confess our sins so that they will be evident to us, in order that we might put them off or put them to death. God is aware of all our sins, confession is to bring them to light so that we will practically deal with them. If we agree that our sins are evil and offensive to God, we will also be ready to repent of our sin and our unbelief, and to find our strength in Christ to stand firm.

1 John 1:9-10 - 9 **If we confess our sins**, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and **purify us from all unrighteousness.** NIV

Acts 19:17-18 - 17 When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor. 18 **Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds.** NIV

Proverbs 28:13 - 13 He who conceals his sins does not prosper, **but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.** NIV

James 5:16 - 16 Therefore **confess your sins to each other** and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. NIV

SANCTIFICATION

The process of God's grace by which the believer is separated from sin and becomes dedicated to God's righteousness. Accomplished by the Word of God (John 17:7) and the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:3-4), sanctification results in holiness, or purification from the guilt and power of sin.

Sanctification: God's Work. We are sanctified by God the Father (Jude), God the Son (Heb 2:11), and God the Holy Spirit (2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:2). Perfect holiness is God's command (1 Thess 4:7) and purpose. As Paul prayed, "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely" (1 Thess 5:23). Sanctification is a process that continues during our lives as believers (Heb 10:14). Only after death are the saints referred to as "perfect" (Hebrews 12:23).

Sanctification: The Believer's Work. Numerous commands in the Bible imply that believers also have a responsibility in the process of sanctification. We are commanded to "be holy" (Lev 11:44; 1 Peter 1:15-16); to "be perfect" (Matt 5:48); and to "present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness" (Rom 6:19). Writing to the church of the Thessalonians, the apostle Paul made a strong plea for purity: "This is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God" (1 Thess 4:3-5). These commands imply effort on our part. We must believe in Jesus, since we are "sanctified by faith in Him" (Acts 26:18). Through the Holy Spirit we must also "put to death the evil deeds of the body" (Rom 8:13). Paul itemized the many "works of the flesh" from which we must separate ourselves (Gal 5:19-21). Finally, we must walk in the Spirit in order to display the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-24). (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Copyright (c)1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers)

Sinner or Saint?

The pursuit of purity is evidence that true saving faith exists. We are not to live in a manner as to invite compromise, rather we are to pursue holiness and purity. *The one who walks in darkness and sin profanes the name of Christ and proves himself a sinner rather than a child of God.* Those who have been born of God (regenerate), walk in obedience to Christ. The New Testament clearly teaches that true saving faith gives evidence of itself through word and deed. We have been made holy by the sacrifice of Christ, it is therefore God's will that we be sanctified in our behavior displaying the good work He has done in our hearts by our ready and willing obedience to His commands.

Romans 8:12-15 - 12 Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation-but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. 13 For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if **by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live**, 14 because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. NIV

1 John 1:6-7 - 6 If **we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie** and do not live by the truth. NIV

1 John 3:9-10 - 9 **No one who is born of God will continue to sin**, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. 10 This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: **Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God**; nor is anyone who does not love his brother. NIV

Put off the old man

Once we have come to Christ in faith and been born again, God is working the process of sanctification in us. We are becoming in practice(our deeds), what we are in position(our standing before God in Christ). *We are therefore admonished to "put to death" whatever belongs to our sinful nature (the old self).* The old self (our former state of depravity) is to be put off continually. The sin of the self-will, which we denounced upon receiving Christ, is now to be forsaken and repented of moment by moment in our daily life. The New Testament clarifies specifically what these sins of the self-will are and exhorts us to put them to death.

Colossians 3:5-10 - 5 **Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature**: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. 7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. 8 But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices

Romans 6:12-14 - 13 Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. NIV

Galatians 5:19-21 - 19 The **acts of the sinful nature are obvious**: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that **those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.**

Galatians 5:24 - 24 **Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature** with its passions and desires. NIV

Put on the new man

If we have put the old self to death, we have only come halfway. Christ is calling us to “put on the new self”, which is like Christ in every way. ***We are to allow the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us and willingly obey His voice moment by moment as we “walk in the Spirit.”*** Having put aside the sins of the self-will, we now live and act in the righteousness of Christ. The New Testament also clearly defines what this righteousness practically looks like in our behavior.

2 Corinthians 5:17-18 - 17 Therefore, **if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation**; the old has gone, the new has come! NIV

Colossians 3:10 - 10 and **have put on the new self, which is being renewed** in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

Ephesians 4:32-5:2 - 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. 5:1 **Be imitators of God**, therefore, as dearly loved children 2 and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. NIV

Colossians 3:12-14 - 12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, **clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience**. 13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. NIV

Bearing the fruit of the Spirit

“A good tree” said Jesus, “bears good fruit.” It is by this bearing of good fruit that we may know that we have been born again. ***Indeed it is Christ's purpose that others will see Him in us as His character is born in our life through our willing obedience.*** When others around us see our kindness and love, our gentleness and respect, our submission and peace, they will see Christ in us. This, Jesus says, glorifies God.

John 15:8 - 8 This is **to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves** to be my disciples. NIV

Matthew 5:16 - 16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that **they may see your good works, and glorify your Father** who is in heaven. NAS

John 15:5 - 5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. **If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit**; apart from me you can do nothing. NIV

Galatians 5:22-23 - 22 But **the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control**. Against such things there is no law. NIV

John the Baptist preached, “bear fruit in keeping with repentance.” We are to live and act in such a way that this fruit of God's Spirit is produced in our life. This happens as we willingly surrender to His guidance and lordship moment by moment in our daily life.

Test yourselves

Friend, the important question for you and for me is—“Am I in Christ.” If we are in Christ, we will never die, but shall live in the glory of heaven, ever satisfied with the goodness of God and of Christ. If we are not in Christ, woe to us, it would be better not to be born than to be an object of God's wrath, and that eternally. ***Christians should make it a regular practice to examine themselves to see whether we bear the good fruit of Christ in our life.*** Only as we see ourselves becoming like Christ can we be practically assured that we possess eternal life. Each time we come to the Lord's table, we are to examine our hearts to see if there be any guile or malice therein. If it be that we find sin within, we must find ready repentance and heartily put it away, so that we will not bring reproach upon the precious blood of Christ. Dear reader, it is no small matter that the Lord of the universe would be nailed to a tree for you and for me!

2 Corinthians 13:5 - 5 **Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves.** Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you-unless, of course, you fail the test?
1 Corinthians 11:28-32 - 28 A man ought **to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.** 29 For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. 30 That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. 31 But **if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment.** 32 When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world. NIV

The first commandment

“Thou shalt have no other god’s before me, I am the Lord.” Dear reader, who or what has first place in your life? The bible describes a creator who is Jealous for the devotion of His creatures. Anything can take the place of God in your life. It could be a house or a car, a place or an object, it could even be a relationship or a person. ***In fact, Jesus said that if you love your own life more than you love Him, you are not worthy to be His disciple.*** My friend, God is by far the most supremely valuable thing in all the universe. He is worthy of your devotion and commitment. God is holy, and if we worship Him truly from our heart, we will become like Him. We become like that which we value most. If we ascribe worth to dead idols, we will die. If we ascribe worth to the Prince of Life, we will live and experience His life.

Exodus 20:2-3 - 2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. 3 **"You shall have no other gods before me.** NIV

Luke 14:25-27 - 25 Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: 26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters-yes, **even his own life-he cannot be my disciple.** 27 And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. NIV

Luke 14:33 - 33 In the same way, **any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.** NIV

Psalms 115:4-8 - But their idols are silver and gold, made by the hands of men. 5 They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but they cannot see; 6 they have ears, but cannot hear, noses, but they cannot smell; 7 they have hands, but cannot feel, feet, but they cannot walk; nor can they utter a sound with their throats. 8 **Those who make them will be like them,** and so will all who trust in them. NIV

Love and Obedience

Do you love God? How can you know if you truly love Him? “If you love me, says Jesus, you will obey my commands.” ***Love for God is demonstrated by our obedience to His commandments. In the Gospel we are called to forsake our own desires and interests and allow His desires and interests to now rule our lives, He is Lord.*** We have come to Christ who died for us, and have exchanged our fruitless life of sin for His glorious life of love and peace. We are called to no longer live for ourselves, but for Him who died for us! This is how we know that we love God and have fulfilled the great commandment, “to love the Lord your God with all your heart mind and soul.” This then, is how we are sanctified. We are growing in our love and obedience to God and His commandments.

John 14:23-24 - 23 **Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching.** My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. 24 **He who does not love me will not obey my teaching.** These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. NIV

2 John 5-6 - 6 **And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands.** As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love. NIV

2 Cor 5:15 - 15 And he died for all, that **those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them** and was raised again. NIV

Spiritual Warfare

Much has been said about the topic of spiritual warfare, some good, some not so good. Actually it is something that we as Christians face every day. ***We are daily caught in a struggle against sin and temptation – righteousness and truth.*** Indeed when Jesus called us He said, “If anyone would come after me, He must ***take up His cross daily***, and follow me.” It is this daily dying to self that presents such a struggle. We are called to put the “old man” or “old self” to death and let Christ live and reign in us. This is spiritual warfare. One is victorious when *by faith in Christ and by His power*, we daily put to death the sinful nature and live in the righteousness, peace and joy granted by the indwelling Holy Spirit. The struggle is for the throne of our hearts, who will rule there? Or did you know that Christ Jesus is both Savior and King! As Christians we are called to live in this victory so that Christ may be glorified in and through our lives.

1 John 5:3-4 - 3 **This is love for God: to obey his commands.** And his commands are not burdensome, 4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith NIV

Eph 6:10-11 - 10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 **Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand** against the devil's schemes. NIV

Rom 14:17-18 - 17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, **but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,** 18 because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men. NIV

The Mind is the battlefield

The spiritual war fought by the Christian is waged in the mind. ***It is in the mind that we consider truth and righteousness, sin and temptation. This is why it is of paramount importance that we continue to renew our minds in the Word of God.*** Our minds need a continual cleansing from the filth of the world around us, and the sin, which lives in us. We are constantly tempted to compromise our faith as we are presented with the temptations of the eyes, the flesh, and the pride of life. Only as we have the Word ready on our minds can we be aware of God's will, that we might walk in it.

2 Cor 10:3-5 - 3 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. 4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5 **We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.** NIV

Rom 12:2 - 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, **but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is**-his good, pleasing and perfect will. NIV

Col 3:1-2 - 3:1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2 **Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.** NIV

Phil 4:8-9 - 8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-**think about such things.** NIV

Heb 4:12 - 12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; **it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.** NIV

Psalms 119:11 - I have **hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.** NIV

Discernment and influence

The type of influence that a Christian allows in their life is very important. If it is God's will for you to be holy and sanctified, will you pollute God's Holy temple, your body, by fellowship with the world? ***Would you arise early to quiet time with God in scripture,***

only to sit for hours in the evening amused by some vile movie filled with adultery, murder and sensuality? Shall we fill God's temple with idols? Don't you know that bad company corrupts good character, or that friendship with the world is to be at war with God? It is imperative that Christians set themselves apart as holy unto God. We are to make judgments and use discernment about the things we indulge in, whether or not they are pleasing to God. With the powerful media (Books, Magazines, Television, Movies, Internet) of today's culture it is important for Christian to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. Let us therefore exercise discernment about what we allow to influence our thinking!

1 Cor 2:15-16 - 15 **The spiritual man makes judgments about all things**, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment: But we have the mind of Christ. NIV

James 4:4 - 4 You adulterous people, don't you know that **friendship with the world is hatred toward God**? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. NIV

James 1:27 - 27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and **to keep oneself from being polluted by the world**. NIV

2 Cor 6:14-15 - 14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. **For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common?** Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? 15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?

1 Cor 15:33 - 33 Do not be misled: "**Bad company corrupts good character**." NIV

Ezek 44:23 - 23 And they shall teach My people **the difference between the holy and the unholy**, and **cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean**. NKJV

Ignorance is not bliss

It is imperative for Christians once they are born again, to put off the old self, which walks in *ignorance of God* and His commandments. To forsake that ignorance of God, and seek His wisdom and His teaching is fundamental to a God glorifying life. Therefore since we understand the importance of walking in the Spirit and living according to a renewed mind, it is imperative that we grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. We cannot mature as a Christian if we never learn of Christ and His teaching, not to mention becoming obedient to it. ***To come to a knowledge and understanding of God's Word is paramount for sanctification.*** Only as you know to do right can you do it. This is why we are exhorted in scripture to "get wisdom, get understanding." Only as our minds are renewed according to Christ can we become like Him.

2 Peter 1:3-4 - 3 His divine power has given us **everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him** who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, **so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption** in the world caused by evil desires. NIV

Prov 4:5-8 - Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or swerve from them. 6 Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. 7 **Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.** 8 Esteem her, and she will exalt you; embrace her, and she will honor you. NIV

Prov 23:23 - 23 Buy the truth and do not sell it; get wisdom, discipline and understanding. NIV

1 Cor 15:33-34 - 33 Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." 34 **Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God**-I say this to your shame.

God's Purpose – Christ in You

In the heavens, you *have been sanctified* if you are in Christ, that is your *position*. You are also therefore *being sanctified* practically each day and this is your *practice*. ***The entire purpose of God in salvation is for us as Christians to be conformed to the image of Christ.*** That our character, our thoughts, our words and our deeds would become like

those of God's Glorious Son, and our Savior, Jesus Christ. This then, is paramount for us as Christians. Its time we grew up, that we are no longer like infants, but rather becoming mature, godly people who think, act and speak like Christ.

Gal 4:19- 19 My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth **until Christ is formed in you**, NIV

2 Cor 5:16-17 - 16 So **from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view**. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. 17 Therefore, **if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation**; the old has gone, the new has come! NIV

Col 1:27-28 - 27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, **which is Christ in you, the hope of glory**. 28 We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, **so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ**.
NIV

Notes

**Law and Grace
Position
Practice**