

=BIBLE DOCTRINES=

Lesson 7
Sanctification

I. WHAT SANCTIFICATION IS:

1. The definition of sanctification: The Oxford dictionary defines it as “action of the Holy Ghost in sanctifying or making holy the believer by the implanting in him of the Christian graces and the destruction of sinful affections.” Sanctification is the work of God’s free grace whereby we are renewed after the image of God and are enabled more and more to die unto sin and to live unto righteousness.
2. The meaning of sanctification: The word “sanctification” actually means “a setting apart” or “a separation.”
3. The three aspects of sanctification:
 - 1) We have been sanctified. That is, our souls were set apart by God at salvation.
 - 2) We are being sanctified. We are growing in grace and becoming more set apart daily as we yield to the Holy Spirit, read the Word, etc.
 - 3) We shall be sanctified. Our bodies will be set apart completely unto Him when He comes for us and gives us our new bodies.
4. Some examples of sanctified things in the Bible: Since the word “sanctified” means “set apart,” “dedicated,” “to be used only for God’s service,” etc., the following things were sanctified in the Bible:
 - 1) The Sabbath was a day set apart to God.
 - 2) The tabernacle was a building set apart to God.
 - 3) The lamb was a sacrifice set apart to God.
 - 4) The firstborn was a child set apart to God.
 - 5) The firstfruits make up the tithe set apart to God.As these things are set apart, even so we are to strive to be more set apart to His service daily.
5. Sanctification is putting off the old nature. There are two natures in the Christian—the old nature and the new. We are to strive daily to become less like the old. This is stated plainly in Colossians 3:5-8. Notice in verse 8 the words, “put off all these,” and then more of that which is to be put off is mentioned.
6. Sanctification is the putting on of the new. Not only are we to stop the old and become more set apart to God, but we are to put on new things. Read Colossians 3:12-17. Notice especially, “Put on therefore, as the elect of God,” in verse 12. Then you will find the things we are to put on. The more things we put off of the old and the more things we put on of the new, the more set apart, sanctified, dedicated, etc. we are unto God.

II. WHAT SANCTIFICATION IS NOT.

1. Sanctification is not sinless perfection. Romans 3:10; 3:12; 3:23; I John 1:8, 10; Isaiah 53:6, and other Scriptures teach us that all men are sinners and will never be completely perfect.
2. Sanctification is not fullness of the Spirit.

III. AIDS TO SANCTIFICATION.

1. God the Father. I Thessalonians 5:23a, “And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly.” Fellowship with God the Father aids us in becoming more set apart to God.
2. Jesus Christ. Hebrews 2:11a, “For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one.” Hebrews 13:12, “Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.” We are more set apart the more we walk with Christ and glorify Him.
3. The Holy Spirit. Romans 15:16c, “being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.” Ask the pupils how they would do if the pastor or some other leader of the church could be with them all the time to help them. Would they become better Christians? Of course, they would! That is exactly what God has done through the person of the Holy Spirit. He has offered us Someone to live with us all the time to remind us what we ought to do and help us become more sanctified.

4. The Word of God. John 17:17, “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” Just as the body needs food for physical growth, so the soul needs food for spiritual growth in grace. This food is the Word of God. Further, as the body must often be cleansed with water, so the spirit needs the cleansing of the Word. Hence, the Saviour said in John 15:3, “Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.”
5. Chastisement. God sets us apart more by His chastening hand in sending us through the fire. (Hebrews 12:10)
6. The church. One who attends the church services faithfully becomes more and more set apart unto God.
7. Christian friends. The person who walks with the right people and runs with the right crowd will be more set apart to God than if he did not.

FILL IN THE BLANK:

1. John 15:3, “Now ye are _____ through the word which I have spoken unto you.”
2. John 17:17, “_____ them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”
3. I Thessalonians 5:23a, “And the very God of peace _____ you wholly.”
4. Hebrews 13:12, “Wherefore Jesus also, that he might _____ the people with His own blood...”
5. Hebrews 10:10, “By the which will we are _____ through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”

QUESTIONS:

1. Sanctification is (the fullness of the Spirit) (sinless perfection) (being set apart unto God).
2. Sanctification happens (at once) (gradually).
3. Give some aids to sanctification.
4. True or false: When a person is sanctified, he talks in tongues immediately.
5. A person (can) (cannot) live above sin.
6. A person (should) (should not) try to live above sin.
7. Sanctification is putting off the _____ and putting on the _____.
8. In what sense is a person sanctified at salvation?
9. In what sense is a person sanctified daily?
10. In what sense will a person be sanctified at the rapture?
11. In what point are you becoming more sanctified daily?
12. In what area do you need improving now? What are some of the things that you need to improve daily in order to become more sanctified unto God?

MEMORY VERSE:

John 17:17, “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”