

Peter and His Epistles
Lesson 9: Becoming Holy
1 Peter 1:13-2:12

“If regeneration had to do with our nature, justification with our standing and adoption with our position, then sanctification has to do with our character and conduct.” (Great Doctrines of the Bible, p. 164)

I. Introduction: Learning to obey (1:14, 1:22, 2:7-8)

Deut. 26:16 “The LORD your God commands you this day to follow these decrees and laws; carefully observe them with all your heart and with all your soul.”

II. The meaning of sanctification

A. What it is not: perfectionism

1. Look at the lives of Old Testament and New Testament leaders. Notice the record in the scriptures of their sins:
Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Peter
2. Look at scriptures that directly deny that men live without sin:
Ecc. 7:20, James 3:2, 1 John 1:8
3. Look at Paul’s comments regarding the Corinthian church:
1 Cor. 3:1-3, 6:4-8, 11, 17-19

B. What it is: holiness

1. Definition: The Greek word “hagiasmos” - the root means to separate. In its various form, it occurs 300 times in the New Testament, 760 times in the Old Testament (all but 108 are from the same Greek and Hebrew roots and mean the same thing).
 - a. Separate from evil 2 Chron 29:5: “and said: “Listen to me, Levites! Consecrate yourselves now and consecrate the temple of the LORD, the God of your fathers. Remove all defilement from the sanctuary.”
 - b. Separate to God 1 Thes 4:3: “It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality;”

2. It has a ceremonial meaning

Things that were set aside for the service of Yahweh. They were no longer common, now they were “holy” set aside for His use.

Num. 3:13 “for all the firstborn are mine. When I struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, I set apart for myself every firstborn in Israel, whether man or animal. They are to be mine. I am the LORD.”

Examples:

- a. Days and seasons were set aside (Gen. 2:3, Deut. 5:12)
- b. Places were sanctified
 - Houses (Lev. 27:14)
 - Fields (Lev. 27:16-22)
- c. Tabernacle (and temple) were sanctified (Ex. 29, Lev. 8:10)
- d. Priests were anointed (Ex. 29, Lev. 8)
- e. Israel as a nation was set aside (Ex. 19)

3. It has a moral (practical) meaning (“meet for the master’s use, prepared for every good work” 2 Tim. 3:17

“Since no unclean person nor thing can be set apart to God for His use, sanctification includes and presupposes cleaning.” (Christian Theology, p. 244)

John 15:3 “You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.”

Eph 5:26 “to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,”

III. The Time of Sanctification

A. “Instantaneous sanctification” (judicially)

In one sense, by the death of Christ, the believer is sanctified at the moment of salvation.

1 Cor. 6:11 “And that is what some of you were. 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.”

“The believer grows in sanctification rather than into sanctification out of something else. By a simple act of faith in Christ, the believer is at once put into a state of sanctification. Every Christian is a sanctified man (or woman).” The Great Doctrines of the Bible, p. 166)

And because of that declaration, believers are called “saints” all throughout the New Testament. (1 Cor. 1: 2, Rom. 1:7, etc)

B. “Progressive sanctification” (experientially)

It implies the idea of growth into completion; it began with a declaration (on the merits of Christ) and continues on the merits of our obedience.

2 Pet. 3:18 “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.”

(See also 2 Cor. 3:18, 7:1)

C. “Complete and final sanctification”

1 Thes. 5:23 “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.”

When Christ returns, there will be a complete sanctification. He will establish our hearts unblameable in holiness before God (1 Thes. 3:13) when we see Him, we will be like Him (1 John 3:2).

IV. The means of sanctification

A. From the divine perspective – it is a work of God.

1. It’s the work of God the father
Jn. 17:17, 1 Thes. 5:23-24
2. It’s the work of Jesus Christ
Heb. 10:10, 13:12, 1 Cor. 6:9-11
3. It’s the work of the Holy Spirit
Rom. 15:16, 2 Thes. 2:13

B. From the human perspective – it is the result of three things:

1. Faith in the redemptive work of Christ – 1 Cor. 1:30
2. Study and submission to God’s word – John 17:17, Eph. 5:26, John 15:3
3. Renunciation of sin and pursuit of holiness - Rom. 6:19, 2 Cor. 7:1, Heb. 12:14

V. So what?

Deut. 5:29 “Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever!”

James 1:25 “But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.”

Discussion Questions

1. Do you consider yourself to be holy? Why/why not?
2. What would it take for you to “feel holy”? Does your answer square with scripture?
3. What is the connection between teaching our children to obey us (and other authorities) and adults obeying God?