



# Sanctification

*Adapted from FireBible Article: Sanctification by Danny Duvall*

**Opening note:** The doctrine of sanctification is extremely important for any believer to understand. Therefore, we have placed an abundance of material in this lesson, making it one of our longest Men's Ministry growth lessons.

Don't be intimidated by the length. Just get started and work your way through it at your own pace!

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God. The Scriptures teach a life of "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord."

By the power of the Holy Spirit we are able to obey the command: "Be ye holy, for I am holy." Sanctification is realized in the believer by recognizing his identification with Christ in His death and resurrection, and by the faith reckoning daily upon the fact of that union, and by

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offering every faculty continually to the dominion of the Holy Spirit.<sup>1</sup>

The *FireBible* Article: *Sanctification* gives a deeper understanding of this truth:

Sanctification: From the Greek *hagiasmos* means to...

- make **holy** (i.e. morally pure, spiritually whole, separated from evil and dedicated to God and his purposes)
- to **consecrate** (i.e. to set apart) and to **separate** from the ungodly patterns and practices of the world

It involves being set apart from sin, so as to have intimate companionship with God and serve him effectively. In practical terms, Sanctification involves an **ongoing process** of **spiritual growth**, development and maturity by which God **refines** us spiritually, prepares us for his purposes and involves us in his plans.

Say this to yourself out loud: **“GOD IS COMMITTED TO CHANGING ME!”**

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<sup>1</sup> “Sanctification,” The Assemblies of God, <https://ag.org/Beliefs/Statement-of-Fundamental-Truths#9> (Accessed August 22, 2017).  
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# 1. Words and descriptions associated with sanctification:

## a. Sanctify

**1 Thessalonians 5:23 (ESV)** Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## b. Love

**Matthew 22:37 (ESV)** And he said to him, “You shall **love** the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

## c. Blameless and holy

**1 Thessalonians 3:13 (ESV)** so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

## d. Perfecting holiness

**2 Corinthians 7:1 (ESV)** Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement

of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

- e. Pure Heart, Good Conscience, and Sincere Faith

**1 Timothy 1:5 (ESV)** The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

- f. Pure and Blameless

**Philippians 1:10 (ESV)** so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ

- g. Set free from sin

**Romans 6:18 (ESV)** and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

- e. Died to sin

**Romans 6:2 (ESV)** By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

- f. Slavery to righteousness leading to holiness

**Romans 6:19 (ESV)** I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

g. Obey his commands

**1 John 3:22 (ESV)** and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.

h. Overcomes the world

**1 John 5:4 (ESV)** For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

## **2. FIVE TERMS** that describe the work of the Holy Spirit in sanctification

a. **Liberating** us from the power and slavery of sin  
**Romans 6:1-19 (ESV)**

b. **Separating** us from the sinful patterns and practices of the world

**Romans 12:1–2 (ESV)** I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

**Malachi 3:2–3 (ESV)** <sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. <sup>3</sup> He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. Consider the following article about fullers' soap:

The *fuller* was usually the town fabric dyer, since, before the woven cloth could be properly dyed, it must be freed from the oily and gummy substances naturally found on the raw fiber.

Many different substances were used in ancient times for cleansing. Among them were white clay, putrid urine, and the ashes of certain desert plants (Arabic *qali*, Biblical "soap"; Malachi 3:2). The fuller's shop was usually outside the city for two reasons. (2 Kings 18:17; Isaiah 7:3; 36:2).

One, so he could have sufficient room to spread out his cloth for drying and sunning, and two, because of the offensive odors sometimes produced by his processes. Syrian indigo dyers still use a cleaning process closely allied to pictures on ancient Egyptian monuments.

The unbleached cotton is soaked in water and then sprinkled with the powdered ashes of the *ishnan*, locally called *qali*, and then beaten in heaps on a flat stone either with another stone or with a large wooden paddle. The cloth is washed free from the alkali by small boys treading on it in a running stream or in many changes of clean water (compare En-rogel, literally, "foot fountain," but translated also "fuller's fountain" because of the fullers' method of washing their cloth).

Mark describes Jesus' garments at the time of His transfiguration as being whiter than any fuller on earth could whiten them (Mark 9:3).<sup>2</sup>

### **3. Renewing our nature and character to be like Jesus Christ**

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<sup>2</sup> James A. Patch, "Fuller," Public Domain, <http://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/fuller/> (Accessed September 1, 2017).

**2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

#### **4. Producing in us the fruit—the effects and character traits—of the Spirit**

**Galatians 5:16 (ESV)** But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

**Galatians 5:22–23 (ESV)** <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

#### **5. Enabling us to live in a way that influences others to follow Christ**

**John 17:15–19 (ESV)** <sup>15</sup> I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

**John 17:23 (ESV)** I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

**Note:** Sanctification is not about absolute perfection, but righteousness—relating rightly to God and doing right according to his principles demonstrated through moral purity, godly obedience and blameless character.

**Philippians 2:14–15 (ESV)** <sup>14</sup> Do all things without grumbling or disputing, <sup>15</sup> that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

**Colossians 1:22 (ESV)** he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,

**1 Thessalonians 2:10 (ESV)** You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers.

**Luke 1:6 (ESV)** And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord.

**6. With God's help, spiritual enablement, and our identification with Christ's death, the following is true:**

- a. We are set free from sin's power (**Romans 6:18 ESV**)
- b. We should no longer be swayed by sin's influence (**Romans 6:11 ESV**)
- c. We have the power for spiritual victory through our Savior, Jesus Christ
- d. Through the Holy Spirit, we are able to resist and overcome the temptation to defy God

**1 John 2:1 (ESV)** My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

**1 John 3:6 (ESV)** No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him...though in this life where we are never completely free from temptation and the possibility of sin.

## **7. Sanctification was God's will and purpose for the Israelites in the OT.**

**Exodus 19:6 (ESV)** and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.”

## **8. They were to live holy and sanctified lives, separated from the wicked and spiritually corrupt lifestyles of the nations around them**

**Leviticus 11:44 (ESV)** For I am the LORD your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy. You shall not defile yourselves with any swarming thing that crawls on the ground.

**Leviticus 19:2 (ESV)** “Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

**2 Chronicles 29:5 (ESV)** and said to them, “Hear me, Levites! Now consecrate yourselves, and consecrate the house of the LORD, the God of your fathers, and carry out the filth from the Holy Place.

**Note:** In a similar way, Sanctification is a requirement for all of Christ's followers. God's Word teaches that we must:

Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. **Hebrews 12:14 (ESV)**

## 9. God's children achieve Sanctification:

a. by faith and dependence on God

**Acts 26:18 (ESV)** to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

b. by identifying with Christ in his death and resurrection (**John 15:4-10 ESV; Romans**

## **6:1-11 ESV; 1 Corinthians 1:30 ESV)**

c. by the personal sacrifice and shed blood of Christ

**1 John 1:7–9 (ESV)** <sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup> If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**Romans 3:25 (ESV)** whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.

**Hebrews 9:14 (ESV)** how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

d. by studying and **applying** God's Word

**John 17:17 (ESV)** Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

e. by the spiritually renewing and life-transforming work of the **Holy Spirit** in their minds and hearts

**Jeremiah 31:33 (ESV)** For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

**Romans 8:13 (ESV)** For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

**1 Corinthians 6:11 (ESV)** And such were some of you. 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.

**Philippians 2:12 (ESV)** Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,

**2 Thessalonians 2:13 (ESV)** But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits to be

saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.

**10. Sanctification is both a work of God and a work of his people (Philippians 2:12-13 see above)**

Christ's followers must participate in the Holy Spirit's sanctifying work...

a. by refraining from evil

**Romans 6:1 (ESV)** What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?

b. by purifying themselves "from everything that contaminates body and spirit"

**2 Corinthians 7:1 (ESV)** Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

c. by keeping themselves from being polluted morally and spiritually by the world

**James 1:27 (ESV)** Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

**11.** In the NT, sanctification is not pictured as a slow process of giving up sin little by little

- a. It is a definite and decisive act by which the believer—by God's grace—is set free from the control of sin and Satan's influence

**Romans 6:18 (ESV)** and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

**2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

- b. Sanctification is also described as a lifelong process by which a follower of Christ continues to put to death the natural impulse toward sin (**Romans 8:1-17 ESV**)
- c. progressively transformed to be more like

## Jesus

**2 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV)** And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, **are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.** For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

**Job 23:10 (ESV)** But he knows the way that I take; when he has tried me, I shall come out as gold.

d. grows in grace

**2 Peter 3:18 (ESV)** But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

e. exercises a greater love for God and others

**Matthew 22:37–39 (ESV)** <sup>37</sup> And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

See also **1 John 4:7-8, 11, 20-21; Mark 12:30**

- f. Fulfills God's purpose for his or her life.

## 12. True sanctification requires that believers:

- a. maintain a close personal relationship with Christ

**John 15:4 (ESV)** Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

- b. participate in fellowship with other Christians

**Ephesians 4:15–16 (ESV)** <sup>15</sup> Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

- c. devote themselves to prayer

**Colossians 4:2 (ESV)** Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

**Matthew 6:5-13 (ESV)**

d. obey God's Word

**John 17:17 (ESV)** Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

e. be sensitive to God's presence and care  
**Matthew 6:25-34 (ESV)**

f. love what is right and hate what is  
wicked and wrong

**Hebrews 1:9 (ESV)** You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

g. put sin to death **Romans 6 (ESV)**

h. submit to God's discipline

**Hebrews 12:5-6 (ESV)** And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary

when reprov'd by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.”

- i. continue to obey and be **filled** with and **empowered** by the Holy Spirit

**Romans 8:14 (ESV)** For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. See also **Ephesians 5:18 (ESV)**.

### **13. Experiential sanctification.**

At times, sanctification may involve a definite **crisis** experience or exceptional encounter with God after one's initial experience of spiritual salvation for example see **Isaiah 6:1-8 (ESV)**.

In such an instance, a follower of Christ may:

- a. receive a clear **revelation** of God's holiness—  
his  
purity, perfection and separation from evil
- b. experience an awareness that God is **calling**  
him  
or her to a unique task

**Note:** This would involve setting oneself apart in a greater way from sin and worldliness in order to get closer to God and become better prepared for his divine purposes.

**2 Corinthians 6:17–18 (ESV)** <sup>17</sup> Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, <sup>18</sup> and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.”

**Note:** Such awareness should characterize all Christians' lives, as they present themselves to God as living sacrifices, reserved for his purposes and honor.

As a result, they receive from the Holy Spirit the needed grace, purity, power and victory to live holy lives pleasing to God. God the Father delights in transforming **sinners** into **saints**—"holy ones"—so as to have a pure and blameless bride (i.e., the church) for his Son, Jesus.

**Ephesians 5:25–27 (ESV)** <sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up

for her, <sup>26</sup> that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <sup>27</sup> so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

## GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS:

Read **1 Peter 1:1-25 (ESV)** and answer the following from the *FireBible* study notes:<sup>3</sup>

1. Our salvation has three parts: past, present, and future.
2. God shields us from some trials now. But the emphasis of 1 Peter is that God's power shields or protects us in relation to our future \_\_\_\_\_ (**1 Peter 1:4 ESV**).
3. God's power continues to protect and shield us as we live by \_\_\_\_\_. This passage reminds us of **Romans 8:33-39 ESV**
4. According to **1 Peter 1:4 ESV**, the future part of \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>3</sup> Quentin McGhee, *Unlocking the Treasures of Your Fire Bible: Resources for Spiritual Understanding*, Springfield, MO, Life Publishers and Faith & Action Series, 2012, Page 295.

our salvation includes \_\_\_\_\_, and **1 Peter 1:9 ESV** says it includes \_\_\_\_\_.

5. Some people use a hot fire to purify metals, such as gold or silver. As the metal melts, impurities float to the top and are removed. Likewise, the fiery trials of life \_\_\_\_\_ our faith.
6. Holiness means being separate from \_\_\_\_\_, dedicated to \_\_\_\_\_, and being like \_\_\_\_\_.
7. What is the key to being holy, like God?
8. Verse 25 of 1 Peter 1 quotes which Old Testament verse? What things does this verse contrast?

Read the *FireBible* Article: *Sanctification*. Answer the following:<sup>4</sup>

1. What does **sanctification** mean?
2. What are some other ways in which the Bible refers to holiness or sanctification?

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<sup>4</sup> Quentin McGhee, *Unlocking the Treasures of Your Fire Bible: Resources for Spiritual Understanding*, Springfield, MO, Life Publishers and Faith & Action Series, 2012, Page 295-296.

3. The Holy Spirit in us: delivers us from \_\_\_\_\_; separates us from \_\_\_\_\_; renews \_\_\_\_\_; produces \_\_\_\_\_; and enables \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Believers do not claim to be perfect. What are some words that describe the way we live?
5. Can a believer live a minute, an hour, and a day without sinning?
6. Does God want us to sin?
7. What is the key to living a holy life-victorious over sin?
8. Are temptations a sin?
9. In this life, should we ever be surprised when temptation comes to our door?
10. What type of holy living did God require from His people under the Old Testament?
11. Has God changed his mind about holy living?
12. Does He require believers under the NT to live holy (**Hebrews 12:14 ESV**)?

13. What does **1 Peter 1:13-16** say about holiness, sanctification, and holy living?
14. What are five ways in which God enables us to live holy lives? Briefly explain each of these.
15. Does sanctification (being holy like God, and living holy) depend only on God?
16. What are some ways we must cooperate with God to be holy in his eyes?
17. What are 10 guidelines that God gives us to obey in order to grow in holiness?
18. Being holy includes a beginning and a process. We begin to be holy the moment we are born again. We continue to become more like Jesus throughout \_\_\_\_\_.
19. Read each of these verses. Then state how each one encourages you to be holy:

2 Corinthians 3:18

2 Corinthians 7:1

## 2 Peter 3:18

20. After we are born again, are there times when God speaks to us to draw closer to Him?