

MODULE 2 – NON-NEGOTIABLES OF THE CHRISTIAN WALK

Week 1 (11th April 2024): Salvation & Water Baptism

Week 2 (18th April 2024): Baptism of The Holy Spirit

Week 3 (25th April 2024): Sanctification

Week 4 (2nd May 2024): Church

The Doctrine of Sanctification

Sanctification is a non-negotiable for all who desire to become more like Jesus in every phase of life.

John 17:17-19 (Amp)

¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth [**set them apart for Your purposes, make them holy**]; Your word is truth. ¹⁸ Just as You commissioned *and* sent Me into the world, I also have commissioned *and* sent them (believers) into the world. ¹⁹ For their sake **I sanctify Myself** [to do Your will], **so that they also may be sanctified** [set apart, dedicated, made holy] in [Your] truth.

Paul wrote about the people of the church in Corinth that they were sanctified in Jesus Christ (1 Cor 1:2, 6:11).

1 Corinthians 1:2 (Amp)

To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified (set apart, made holy) in Christ Jesus, who are selected *and* called as saints (God's people), together with all those who in every place call on *and* honor the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their *Lord* and ours:

Believers of Jesus Christ who are sanctified are not like the people of the world.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (Amp)

⁹ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit *or* have any share in the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate [by perversion], nor those who participate in homosexuality, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers [whose words are used as weapons to abuse, insult, humiliate, intimidate, or slander], nor swindlers will inherit *or* have any share in the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you [before you believed]. But you were washed [by the atoning sacrifice of Christ], you were sanctified [set apart for God, and made holy], you were justified [declared free of guilt] in the name

of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the [Holy] Spirit of our God [the source of the believer's new life and changed behavior].

What is Sanctification?

It's root meaning suggests setting apart from that which is common and unclean.

Ask:

Can we sanctify ourselves?

What happens if we are not sanctified?

Leviticus 21:8 (Amp)

You shall consecrate him, therefore, for he offers the food of your God; he shall be holy to you; for **I the LORD, who sanctifies you**, am holy.

Isaiah 66:17 (Amp)

“Those who [vainly attempt to] sanctify and cleanse themselves to go to the gardens [to sacrifice to idols],

Following after one in the center,

Who eat swine's flesh, detestable things and mice,

Will come to an end together,” says the LORD.

We are **called to be holy** (1 Pet 1:16).

Exodus 19:6 (Amp)

and **you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests** and a holy nation [**set apart for My purpose**].’ These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.”

“Sanctify” is one of the words related to “consecrate”, and suggests not only a separation from, but unto. Separation from sin unto salvation, from works unto grace, from hell unto heaven. It stands for a renewing (Rom 12:2). This way you are not only washed from sin, but enhanced with purity.

Ask: During the Old Testament days, who were to be sanctified?

Romans 12:2 (Amp)

And do not be conformed to this world [any longer with its superficial values and customs], but be transformed *and* progressively changed [as you mature spiritually] by the renewing of your mind [focusing on godly values and ethical

attitudes], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His plan and purpose for you].

Some of the definitions:

Sanctification is a principle of grace's savingly functioned work, whereby the heart becomes holy and is made after God's own heart. (Thomas Watson)

Sanctification is the action of the Holy Spirit in sanctifying or making holy the believer, by implanting within him of the Christian graces, and the destruction of the sinful affections. (The Oxford Dictionary)

Sanctification is the work of free grace whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God and are enabled more and more to die unto sin and live unto righteousness. (The Ancient Religious teaching)

Biblical sanctification is the work of God whereby we are separated from the reign of sin unto God for His service.

Counterfeits of God's prescribed "sanctification" abound (1 Kings 14:26-27). Man's developed holiness is a poor imitation of the real.

1 Kings 14:26-27 (NLT)

²⁶ He ransacked the treasuries of the LORD's Temple and the royal palace; he stole everything, including all the gold shields Solomon had made. ²⁷ King Rehoboam later replaced them with bronze shields as substitutes, and he entrusted them to the care of the commanders of the guard who protected the entrance to the royal palace.

What "sanctification" is not...

It is not moral virtue.

One may have excellent values yet have a heart deprived of God's sanctifying grace. Acts 17:18 talks of the Stoic philosophers who were prominent among moralized heathens yet did not recognize the work of the cross.

It is not a mere religious practice.

2 Timothy 3:2-5 (Amp)

² For people will be lovers of self [narcissistic, self-focused], lovers of money [impelled by greed], boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents,

ungrateful, unholy *and* profane, ³ [and they will be] unloving [devoid of natural human affection, calloused and inhumane], irreconcilable, malicious gossips, devoid of self-control [intemperate, immoral], brutal, haters of good, ⁴ traitors, reckless, conceited, lovers of [sensual] pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ **holding to a form of [outward] godliness (religion), although they have denied its power [for their conduct nullifies their claim of faith]**. Avoid such people *and* keep far away from them.

They pretend a holiness they do not possess. They may have a dazzling profession, but are lamps without oil. They miss out on the true holiness which is found in Eph 4:24.

Ephesians 4:22-24 (Amp)

²² that, regarding your previous way of life, you put off your old self [completely discard your former nature], which is being corrupted through deceitful desires, ²³ and be *continually* renewed in the spirit of your mind [having a fresh, untarnished mental and spiritual attitude], ²⁴ and put on the new self [the regenerated and renewed nature], created in God's image, [godlike] in the righteousness and holiness of the truth [living in a way that expresses to God your gratitude for your salvation].

The Bible warns us against such people (Jude 12).

Jude 12 (NLT)

When these people eat with you in your fellowship meals commemorating the Lord's love, they are like dangerous reefs that can shipwreck you. They are like shameless shepherds who care only for themselves. They are like clouds blowing over the land without giving any rain. They are like trees in autumn that are doubly dead, for they bear no fruit and have been pulled up by the roots.

A pretended sanctification is a statue without life. Behind holy habits there must be a holy heart.

It is not eradication.

There are various holiness movements which are responsible for different interpretations of sanctification. They believe in the eradication of the old man and believe in sinless perfection. No doubt we are called unto this.

The Lord has certainly made possible for His own, a constant deliverance from all known, conscious sin. Such an experience, however, does not suggest a condition of sinlessness. “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves”. There is a world of undiscovered sin within the most holy among us. Sin does not die within the believer, he dies to sin.

When Paul declared, “I die daily,” he meant that he had acquired the habit of reckoning himself dead unto sin. There is a difference between sin being in us against our will, and reigning in us with our permission (Romans 6:12).

Romans 6:12 (Amp)

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts *and* passions.

In spite of the affirmation of many that their old nature has been eradicated, it remains until death or until Christ’s return. A person who claims he is so sanctified that he cannot sin, actually sins by such an assertion. Sanctification is God's master work that goes on in the life of a believer as long as he lives.

Weeds grow of themselves; flowers are planted.

We are inherently sinful. Holiness is divinely infused. It is God’s perfect work whereby He sets believers aside perfectly and forever for Himself. In systematic theology justification is made to precede sanctification but in Scripture, sanctification precedes justification (1 Cor 1:2, 6:11).

What is Sanctification according to the Word?

It is a supernatural work.

It is the work of the Holy Spirit.

1 Peter 1:1-2 (Amp)

¹ Peter, an apostle (special messenger, personally chosen representative) of Jesus Christ,

To those [elect—both Jewish and Gentile believers] who live as exiles, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia [Minor], and Bithynia, who are chosen ² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father by **the sanctifying work of the Spirit** to be obedient to Jesus Christ and to be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace [that special sense of spiritual well-being] be yours in increasing abundance [as you walk closely with God].

It is an intrinsic work.

Intrinsic means “belonging naturally; essential”

Sanctification is parallel to the “adorning of the heart” which Peter wrote about (1 Peter 3:3-4).

1 Peter 3:3-4 (Amp)

³Your adornment must not be *merely* external—with interweaving *and* elaborate knotting of the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or [being superficially preoccupied with] dressing in *expensive* clothes; ⁴but let it be [**the inner beauty of] the hidden person of the heart**, with the imperishable quality *and* unfading charm of a gentle and peaceful spirit, [one that is calm and self-controlled, not overanxious, but serene and spiritually mature] which is very precious in the sight of God.

When the Holy Spirit halts us from sin, His work of holiness is deeply seated in the soul.

Psalm 51:6 (Amp)

Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being,
And in the hidden part [of my heart] You will make me know wisdom.

We do not become holy by adopting clean habits. Holiness must be inwrought by God before it can manifest itself in holy ways.

Inwrought means “(of a fabric/garment) intricately embroidered with a pattern/decoration.

It is an extensive work.

Original sins depraved all of our capabilities. No part of our being is sound. The whole head is sick “from the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it” (Isaiah 1:5-6). A divinely provided sanctification covers all of our depraved being, “spirit, soul and body” (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (Amp)

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you through and through [that is, separate you from profane and vulgar things, make you pure and whole and undamaged—consecrated to Him—set apart for His purpose]; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept complete and [be found] blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As a result of the Fall, the will was affected and became obstinate. The sanctifying work of the Spirit blends the human will with the will of God yielding towards it. The sin of our first parents corrupted the affections until they became misplaced on wrong objects – sanctification turns them into right channels. Thus, as Paul reminds us, sanctification is not partial, but “wholly” (1 Thessalonians 5:23). Although we can only be sanctified in part, yet it is in every part.

It is a beautiful work.

Sanctification causes the admiration of heaven. It glorifies God. Holiness is the most sparkling jewel in the Godhead (Exodus 15:11). When we strive after holiness, heaven begins in our soul. The more holy we become, the more is our holy Lord admired in us.

It is an abiding work.

What God does is forever. Our practical sanctification may suffer an eclipse, but our positional sanctification can never vary.

1 John 2:27 (Amp)

As for you, the anointing [the special gift, the preparation] which you received from Him **remains [permanently] in you**, and you have no need for anyone to teach you. But just as His anointing teaches you [giving you insight through the presence of the Holy Spirit] about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as His anointing has taught you, **you must remain in Him** [being rooted in Him, knit to Him].

1 John 3:9 (Amp)

No one who is born of God [deliberately, knowingly, and habitually] practices sin, because God’s seed [His principle of life, **the essence of His righteous character**] **remains [permanently] in him** [who is born again—who is reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, and set apart for His purpose]; and he [who is born again] **cannot *habitually* [live a life characterized by] sin**, because he is born of God *and* longs to please Him.

We are sanctified (1 Cor 6:11), and in this aspect there can be no improvement or progress. Positional sanctification is the privilege of all who have accepted Christ and who, consequently, have been set apart by and for God. It is the responsibility of all who are saved to have an outward, external life pleasing to God.

It is a progressive work.

Justification does not admit of degrees, for a believer cannot be more justified than he is. We are sanctified when we are saved. It is not something we hope for as we reach maturity, or after death. Justification is what Christ has already done for us – sanctification is what He is doing in us. With the increase of spiritual knowledge (Colossians 1:10), and of faith (2 Corinthians 10:15), there is the increase of sanctification.

Colossians 1:9-10 (Amp)

⁹For this reason, since the day we heard about it, we have not stopped praying for you, asking [specifically] that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom [with insight into His purposes], and in understanding [of spiritual things], ¹⁰so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord [displaying admirable character, moral courage, and personal integrity], to [fully] please *Him* in all things, bearing fruit in every good work and steadily growing in the knowledge of God [with deeper faith, clearer insight and fervent love for His precepts];

2 Peter 3:18 (Amp)

but grow [spiritually mature] in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory (honor, majesty, splendor), both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

2 Corinthians 7:1 (Amp)

Therefore, since we have these [great and wonderful] promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, completing holiness [living a consecrated life—a life set apart for God’s purpose] in the fear of God.

Holiness in life is progressive. If we are not growing up into the stature of Christ, something alien to its nature is stunting our spiritual growth. Not only are we sanctified, but we are being sanctified. Position must be translated into practice, and standing into state. This progressive sanctification as taught by Christ (John 17:17) is accomplished not by fleshly efforts or in the suppression of sin, but only by God (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; John 17:19).

John 17:17,19 (Amp)

¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth [set them apart for Your purposes, make them holy]; Your word is truth.

¹⁹ For their sake I sanctify Myself [to do Your will], so that they also may be sanctified [set apart, dedicated, made holy] in [Your] truth.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 (Amp)

²³ Now may the God of peace Himself **sanctify you through and through** [that is, separate you from profane and vulgar things, make you pure and whole and undamaged—consecrated to Him—set apart for His purpose]; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept complete and [be found] blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ Faithful *and* absolutely trustworthy is He who is calling you [to Himself for your salvation], and He will do it [He will fulfill His call by making you holy, guarding you, watching over you, and protecting you as His own].

The once for all act continues through life and reaches finality at Christ's return (1 Thessalonians 3:12-13).

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 (Amp)

¹² And may the Lord cause you to increase and excel *and* overflow in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also do for you; ¹³ so that He may strengthen *and* establish your hearts without blame in holiness in the sight of our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints (God's people).

Go faster from here due to time restraint.

The Secrets of Sanctification

Christ was sanctified by His own act (John 17:19) and for our sakes that He might reveal the extent of His love and purpose (Ps 4:3). Christ was separated from the world and the measure of His separation should be ours (John 17:15-16).

John 17:15-16 (Amp)

¹⁵ I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but that You keep them *and* protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

As His sanctification was for our sakes, our daily sanctification should be for His sake (Heb 2:11).

Hebrews 2:11 (Amp)

Both Jesus who sanctifies and those who are sanctified [that is, spiritually transformed, made holy, and set apart for God's purpose] are all from one *Father*; for this reason He is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters,

We are sanctified by God

1 Thessalonians 4:3 (Amp)

For this is the will of God, that you be sanctified [separated and set apart from sin]: that you abstain *and* back away from sexual immorality;

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (Amp)

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you through and through [that is, separate you from profane and vulgar things, make you pure and whole and undamaged—consecrated to Him—set apart for His purpose]; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept complete and [be found] blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is He who justifies the guilty and sanctifies the unclean. As with all other spiritual blessings, the source of our sanctification is God.

We are sanctified by Christ

As God is the Source of our sanctification, so Christ is the Medium of it (Heb 2:11, 10:10,14, 13:12).

Hebrews 10:14 (Amp)

For by the one offering He has perfected forever *and* completely cleansed those who are being sanctified [bringing each believer to spiritual completion and maturity].

Hebrews 13:12 (Amp)

Therefore Jesus also suffered *and* died outside the [city] gate so that He might sanctify *and* set apart for God as holy the people [who believe] through [the shedding of] His own blood.

Christ died for our sanctification.

Titus 2:14 (Amp)

who [willingly] gave Himself [to be crucified] on our behalf to redeem us *and* purchase our freedom from all wickedness, and to purify for Himself a

chosen *and* very special people to be His own possession, *who are* enthusiastic for doing what is good.

He died to save us from the government of sin, as well as from its guilt. Jesus is our sanctification (1 Cor 6:11). Thus sanctification is not something, but Someone.

We are sanctified by the Spirit

He is the active Agent in our holiness, impressing His own sanctity upon our heart, as the seal leaves its impression on the wax (Rom 15:16; 2 Thes 2:13). He clothes us with His own virtue (1 Cor 6:11; 2 Thes 2:13; 1 Pet 1:2).

We are sanctified by the Word.

John 15:3 (Amp)

You are already clean because of the word which I have given you [the teachings which I have discussed with you].

We are sanctified by faith.

Sanctifying faith can remove mountains of sin and pride (Acts 26:18).

We are sanctified by prayer.

It is an answer to unceasing, believing prayer that God can make the unclean, clean.

We are sanctified by Godly fellowship.

We must not only “take time to be holy,” but “make friends of God’s children”

Proverbs 13:20 (Amp)

He who walks [as a companion] with wise men will be wise,
But the companions of [conceited, dull-witted] fools [are fools themselves and] will experience harm.

Association results in assimilation.

We are sanctified by our own will.

1 Thes 4:3; Rom 6:7; 1 Cor 6:17

God never saves nor sanctifies against the human will. All divine gifts are to be received through the voluntary exercise of the will.

We are sanctified by chastisement.

The chastisements of life, if accepted as from the Lord, help to fashion us into His image (Heb 12:6-11; 1 Pet 1:7). Refined in the fire of trial, we come forth as gold.

The Signs of Sanctification

How are we to know whether we are being sanctified? What are the evident tokens of personal holiness? Are the workings of God by His spirit through His Word visible? Yes! "By this shall all men know that you are My disciples."

There will be separation from all known sin and enmity to God (James 4:4). This separation is from the world unto holiness (Colossians 3:1).

There will be the determination not to stand up for our rights, but to trust God as a Defense (Romans 12:19).

There will be the constant effort to guard our hearts against all that is unsuitable in a sanctified life (Eph 5:15-17).

The study of His Word will always be a delight (Ps 1:2-3).

There will be a growing resemblance to God. Adam sinned in that he aspired to be like unto God in omniscience. But we aspire to be like Him in holiness (1 Pet 1:16). Our immediate goal is conformity to Christ (Rom 8:28-29). Our ultimate goal is perfect likeness to Him (1 Jn 3:2).

There will be the manifestation of the Spirit's fruit and favour. As the unclean spirit in the unsanctified carries them to all forms of wickedness, so the Holy Spirit works reversely in the sanctified, leading them to do those things pleasing to God (Gal 5:22-24; Heb 13:21).

The Summons to Sanctification

There are several reasons why we must seek after sanctity of life.

God demands it.

He may not will us to be rich, or famous, but He does will us to be holy. He does not command us to sin, to be unclean, to be proud, but He does command us to be sanctified in life (Eph 1:4; 1 Thes 4:7). God loves holiness.

It is a proof of our justification.

Out of Christ's side their flowed blood and water. The blood represents justification, the water, sanctification (1 John 5:6). Justification and sanctification go together, and what God has joined, we dare not put asunder (1 Corinthians 6:11; Micah 6:8, 7:18).

Without sanctification we have no title to the new covenant.

Only the sanctified can plead the benefits of the covenant (Ezekiel 36:26). In law, it is only those named in a will who can claim what the will provides for them. It would be presumption for them to claim that to which they were not entitled. Sanctification is a sign of our election. Election is the cause of our salvation – sanctification is the evidence of it.

Without sanctification, there can be no vision.

Holy hearts alone know the joy of gazing upon the glory of the Holy Lord (Hebrews 12:14). God's presence is not like Noah's ark, into which entered the clean and the unclean beasts. We can only see the Lord reflected in His Word, as we constantly obey the Spirit's call to holiness of life.