

X. Concerning Sanctification

- † **We believe that Sanctification is the process by which, we are made partakers of His holiness; that it is a progressive work, that it is begun in regeneration; and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means, especially the word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer.**

- † Sanctification: 'hagiasmos' (Strong's G38)- consecration, purification, the effect of consecration (Thayer); purification, to purify (Strongs).
 1. Becoming less like you, and more like Jesus Christ. Sanctification in its simplest form is the Christian growth process involving the removal of sin and the replacement with righteousness.
 2. *'Sanctification, according to the gospel and as the term is used in theology, is a precious reality, involving holiness of heart, which leads to holiness of life (Pg 299).'* J. M. Pendleton, Christian Doctrines
 3. To Become Holy

- † Foundational Verse: I Pet 1:15-16

Preliminary Thoughts and Considerations

1. Isa 43:7/Ecc 12:13-14: Man's principle and primary objective is to bring honor and glory to God! We do that first by believing in him, trusting in him unto the salvation of our souls. When salvation occurs, God regenerates us and makes us COMPLETELY NEW CREATURES (See Article VII). He plants within us a seed of righteousness. We note J.M. Pendleton once again: *'Now, while regeneration implants the germ of holiness in the heart, sanctification is the unfolding of that germ'* (Pg 299). See Article IV for more information. Thus, Salvation is a grace, a miracle, and a life changing, life-creating event, while Sanctification is the process of growth. It is in the believer's heart to live for Christ Jesus: Gal 2:20.

2. Biblical Sanctification Enjoined or Encouraged by the Word of God:
 1. Ex 19:22 (You're a priest by the way: Rev 5:10)
 2. I Thess 4:3
 3. I Thess 5:23
 4. I Cor 1:2 (Called to Sainthood)

Elementary Principles of Sanctification

1. It is the will of God for your life: I Thess 4:3.
2. It is your effectual calling, the undercurrent of your life, your motivation in all things spiritual, physical, eternal, and temporal: I Thess 4:7.
3. 'Fruit' is a direct result of your sanctification: Matt 12:35.
4. *'It is not vicarious, i.e., it cannot be transferred or imputed, it is an individual possession, built up, little by little, as the result of obedience to the Word of God, and of following the example of Christ (Vines):'* I Cor 13:11/ Phil 3:12-16
5. Preservation of the Truth depends on YOUR sanctification: Heb 5:12-6:1-3.
6. Your Sanctification benefits others: I Pet 3:15

From Milk to Meat; Sanctification as Paul Preached

† In keeping with the Apostle Paul's theology and teaching, we will examine his simple illustrations denoting sanctification in a Christian. Paul often referred to the Church as a building, a body, and a bride. These word pictures became the foundation of harmony, fellowship, and agape love in the Church. The Church is composed of 'baptized believers' and so the sanctification of the believer leads to the betterment of the Church, the furtherance of the Gospel, the preservation of the truth, and impact in a particular community. We now observe Paul's language:

1. A Child is Born (regeneration): II Cor 5:17
2. 'Babes in Christ': I Cor 3:1-2
3. Becoming a 'perfect man': Eph 4:13-14

† *'...So birth by regeneration brings forth the spiritual babe, possessed of all the parts of the "New Man," but needing spiritual diet, exercise, strength, development. In regeneration, then, the new creature is formed, comes into being, and exhibits all the conditions of a babe, while sanctification nourishes the babe and promotes its growth to spiritual maturity. Sanctification is therefore a progressive work, going on by degrees until finally accomplished.'* (Pg 300 J. M. Pendleton).

Hauser Baptist Church Sanctification Scale

* At What Stage of Sanctification would you rate THIS Church?

1. Infant	2. Toddler	3. Child	4. Pre Teen	5. Teen
	6. Young Adult	7. Mid Aged	8. Old & Wise	

- † Got your answer? Well, YOUR SANCTIFICATION directly affects the Church's growth. So, assume that the 'age' you circled is where YOU are! Sanctification is personal, private growth and much like salvation is between you and God. The question needs to be asked in your heart and mind, 'What can I do to grow, be used by God, and help the cause of Christ?' Let's explore the answer...

12 Steps to Speed Sanctified Growth in the Believer

- † The Bible gives us the recipe for 'Spiritual Weight Gainer' that we may obtain sanctified strength through various exercises and means. It should be noted that one should never 'stop growing.' Though we may obtain a somewhat mastery level of intelligence concerning scriptural doctrines, practical reform should occur constantly in our lives. Here is how the Bible teaches us to grow:

1. Actively pursue it: Heb 12:14
2. Read the 'Instruction Manual' for growth: John 17:17-19
3. Pray for grace, wisdom, and strength: I Thess 5:23
4. Develop eyes of self examination: Psalms 26:2/ Matt 7:3-5
5. Mimic His supreme example: John 13:15/ Phil 2:5
6. Make sure to 'walk in the Spirit' for He is the agent of sanctification: I Cor 6:11
7. Seek & destroy any sin in your life: II Tim 2:21/ Rom 6:1-7/ Ephesians 5:8-12
8. Replace removed sin with righteousness: II Time 2:21-22/ Phil 4:8
9. Separate yourself spiritually for his use: I Pet 2:9-11 (Notice 'Strangers & Pilgrims' denotes separation from this world.)
10. Add Christian Graces to your sanctified faith: II Pet 1:5-9
11. Develop Self-Denial: I Cor 9:25-27
12. Mortify your fleshly Desires through prayer: Romans 8:6-13

Evidence of Sanctification in Your Life

- † While we are commissioned by our Lord Jesus to be 'fruit inspectors,' we may (by eyes of self-inflection) note personal progress in OUR OWN lives. We should be far less concerned about the sanctification of others, and as a natural reaction be all the more engrossed with our own. J. M. Pendleton gives 4 ways in which we may sense growth in our lives. Like making

marks on the wall every month to record a child's growth, so we may ensure that we, as Christians, are growing. Observe:

1. You develop and maintain a deep sense of unworthiness.

1. Isaiah 6:1-7: Here Isaiah demonstrates the stark contrast between the holiness of the Lord and the imperfections of humanity. Thus, we note that 'being made holy' or 'being in the presence of holiness' will strike unworthiness in the heart of a sanctified believer. As the heart becomes ready, so we grow in Christian truth. So, as the Lord shows you the areas you need to change, you humble yourself before the Lord, only to 'be exalted.'

2. Eph 3:8- Paul called himself on another occasion the 'chief of sinners.' He also wrote to the Romans, 'O, wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death?' Paul portrays humility consistently throughout all of scripture.

2. You develop and maintain an ever-increasing hatred of sin.

1. 'Sin is the opposite of holiness, and, so far as we know, God cannot make us holy without making us hate sin' (Pendleton 308). Romans 7:12-13 sin becomes 'exceedingly sinful,' producing in us a hatred for sin. Pendleton goes on to say, 'Hatred of sin implies a love of holiness (Pg 308).' The more we hate sin and it disturbs us, the more we grow an insatiable love for the things that are good. Phil 4:8

3. You develop and maintain a growing interest in the means of grace.

1. Properly, you become more involved, more aware of sanctification in your life. It becomes more important, always a forethought motivating your every move. Church services, ordinances, and prayer meetings become more important as you learn the reality of the magnitude of God and serving him becomes less like ho-hum and more like a flaming desire (often called piety). Psalms 19:8-10

4. You develop and maintain an increasing love of heavenly things.

1. Col 3:1-4: As our eyes turn heavenly and our affections are 'set on things above,' the worldly ties begin to break and we, as a result, feel more like pilgrims and strangers here on earth. Our robes become whiter and we realize that heaven is drawing closer: '*And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*' Rev 7:13-14

Summary

'Sin, my worst enemy before,
Shall vex my eyes and ears no more;
My inward foes shall all be slain,
Nor Satan break my peace again'

- ✠ NOTE: Much material has been directly pulled from Christian Doctrines by J. M. Pendleton. If I have forgotten a quotation, I apologize and plagiarism has not been intended. See Chapter 21 in Christian Doctrines for more information.