



Cross Currents International Ministries

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Dear Prayer Supporter,

Dorothy and I thank you sincerely for standing with us in multiple CCIM ministries by your prayers and gifts. We love this family picture, we choose this month, which illustrates my article on *“Sanctification.”* In His family, the impact of the Word of God individually and collectively, is a vital key to prove His resurrection life in these troublesome days.

Please continue to pray for the many people we daily reach by purchasing

“Google Ads” to offer free downloads of *“Your Quest for God”* in the Arabic, Czech, English, French, German, Hungarian, Hebrew, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Slovakian and Turkish languages. Already there have been well over a half a million responses for which we give God all the glory!!

Together in His Name,



Please pray for *“Rendezvous with the Lord”* French West Africa radio broadcasts.

I listened to your message: *“Redemption through His Blood”* on your program, *“Rendezvous avec le Seigneur.”* I realized Jesus redeemed His people through the shedding of His precious Blood and I saw how necessary His Blood sacrifice was to meet the demands for a holy God to forgive me. I thank God, now I know that without His sacrifice it would be impossible to be redeemed!

“Good news for you” was your message today in which you emphasized that I must turn to the Lord Jesus Christ in order to be saved. Then, when I give Him my life I can have a living relationship with Him at all times through His Spirit. Now I want Him to be my All in all!

I have great joy listening to your program: *“Rendezvous with the Lord.”* You talked about the danger of *spiritual compromise* and emphasized that, as a Christian, we cannot have one foot in the world and the other foot following the Lord! We must be careful not to be deceived by making anything else the center of our lives. I've been blessed to understand how to avoid being an idolater. I want the Lord Jesus Christ to be the center of my life. Long life to your program!

I listened to *“Ascribing Deity to Him”* and realized that I want to know God. I really need to know the Lord Jesus, the Son of God and acknowledge His Deity!

Sanctification

-by **Richard A. Bennett**



When faced squarely with the heinousness of sin, it is thrilling to turn to this topic and ask the Holy Spirit to lift us to a life of useful and holy influence. This does not mean, as I used to think, that one little click in my spiritual make-up will elevate me to the rank of super sanctified saint; but rather that I am daily more conscious that I have been sanctified at conversion; that I am being sanctified in my daily walk, and that one day I will be sanctified completely when I meet Him face to face.

Two Aspects of Sanctification

The sense in which the Christian is sanctified combines both the religious meaning - which speaks of being set apart for service and implies possession: together with the ethical meaning - which speaks of being set apart from sin and implies purity.

1. Possession: To be set apart for Service

The Old Testament makes it abundantly clear that there is a sense in which “things” can be sanctified. Take, for instance, the example recounted in Leviticus 27:14-16, where God specifically commanded that people should sanctify their houses and fields. The thought behind this was that they should be set aside for God’s purpose. *Every devoted thing is most holy unto the Lord* (v.28). Again, in Exodus 13:2, immediately after the liberation of the children of Israel from Egypt, God commanded that all the firstborn should be set aside or sanctified. He did not mean that they should be more holy than the rest of the family, but that they should be set aside for a specifically religious purpose.

In Matthew 23:17-19, the Lord Jesus confirms this thought when He tells us that the altar sanctifies the gift, and the temple sanctifies the gold. They were set apart; they were dedicated. The altar was dedicated to God, and the gift was of no greater consequence than the altar, because it was the altar that sanctified the gift. In Romans 12:1 we read that, when exhorting us to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God, the Apostle Paul significantly explains that this is only possible by the mercy of God: *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

2. Purity: To be set apart from Sin

Immediately after Ezekiel’s vision of “the valley of dry bones,” (chapter 37:28), we read: *And the heathen shall know that I the Lord do sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary shall be in the midst of them for evermore.* The prophetic implications do not detract from the usage of the word in this instance, which is clearly ethical. Prior to this the prophet speaks of evil, defilement, and idols, being taken away from Israel. When the sin that had held them low is removed, the heathen shall recognize the sanctifying power of God. It is the same thought behind God’s command to Moses in Leviticus 19:2, when He said: *Ye shall be holy; for I the Lord your God am holy.*

Thus, as Peter takes up the refrain in his first epistle, chapter 1, verse 16, with the command: *Be ye holy; for I am holy*, we find that God is still revealing his unqualified objective in the life of every Christian. The ethical implication is unmistakable. It is with tremendous joy we discover how this, being “set apart,” occurs.

Three Stages of Sanctification

While it may at first appear confusing to talk of sanctification as past, present and future, nevertheless, the Scriptures relate this experience to the three tenses of Christian living: We have been sanctified if we are truly converted; we are being sanctified; and, there is yet to be a day when we will be sanctified in His holy presence.

1. Initially: To be set apart from an evil world

The ground of this initial sanctification is nothing less than the “Blood” of our Lord Jesus Christ; *Wherefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own Blood, suffered without the gate* (Hebrews 13:12). In the high priestly prayer the Lord said: *And for their sakes I sanctify Myself* (John 17:19) meaning, “I separate Myself unto Thy will, even though it means a cross, for they can never be separated from this wicked world apart from the blood that is to be shed.” This is the means whereby God has ordained that we can become set apart from a world that one day will be headed for destruction.

The moment you trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior you were no longer “at home” in this world. *Let us go forth therefore unto Him without the camp. . . for here we have no continuing city, but we seek one to come*” (Hebrews 13:13,14). The moment we are saved we were set apart from an evil world. Did not the Savior say: *They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world* (John 17:16). So why prioritize in patching up the ‘degenerating house’, rather than decorating and furnishing our future abode? May God show us that, in spite of its ever present allure, this world is not our home!

2. Continually: To be set apart from an evil walk

This is not optional but obligatory. In 2 Timothy 2:19 we read, *Let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity*. This involves being set apart from sin, while *If any man purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, meet for the Master’s use, and prepared unto every good work* (2 Timothy 2:21). For every good work involves service. Both are imperative for the Christian! So how can I live a sanctified life?

The Word of God.

The Lord Jesus prayed: *Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy Word is truth* (John 17:17). As I meet with God through His Word, I am encouraged to holy living. This, in turn, encourages me to hunger and thirst after righteousness, as the Lord Jesus said: *Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled* (Matthew 5:6). Let us daily give His Word a primary place in our hearts and homes. Remember that He has given us, *exceeding great and precious promises, that ye might be partakers of the divine nature* (2 Peter 1:4). And *ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth* (1 Peter 1:22).

The Spirit of God.

We read in 2 Thessalonians 2:13: *He hath chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit*. God, in the Old Testament, is repeatedly referred to as our *Holy God*. However, in the New Testament, prime reference of holiness is of the third person of the Trinity. The distinctive qualifying term is that He is the Holy Spirit. It seems almost too wonderful to grasp, that God’s holiness has become available for you and me by the indwelling reality of His *Holy Spirit*. Today, we can experience the joy of being separated from an evil walk and by the enabling of His Holy Spirit, Who is the Spirit of Truth and the Spirit of Holiness!

The Chastisement of God.

In Psalm 119:71 we read: *It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I might learn Thy statutes*. Did you get that? The Psalmist rejoiced in affliction as God’s pathway to obedience and purity. In Hebrews 12:10, *He (chastened) for our own profit, that we might be partakers of His holiness*. Whatever His chastening hand, whether sorrow or sickness, whether distress or persecution, it is all for our sanctification. Let us learn to turn it to the purpose for which it was lovingly intended. Thus we see the glorious possibility of a consistent walk that bespeaks God’s purpose for His own children.

3. Ultimately: To be set apart from an evil nature

If we could talk of a primary attribute of God, surely we would have to talk of His holiness. His wrath that judges and His love that redeems merely vindicate His absolute holiness. The Lord spake unto Moses: *Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the Lord your God. . . which sanctify you* (Leviticus 20:7, 8). Those who have been set apart from an evil world at the cross, and are being set apart from an evil walk through the means of grace, are anticipating keenly the time when: . . . *we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is* (1 John 3:2).

