

NEW YEAR'S SANCTIFICATION'S

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January 5th, 2020

Sanctification or Sanctimonious?

Every new year, New Year's resolutions are made. As we enter 2020, let's put a deeper spotlight on issues of the heart and let's call it New Year's Sanctification's.

[Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology](#) defines sanctification as this: *"The state of proper functioning". In the theological sense, things are sanctified when they are used for the purpose God intends. A human being is sanctified, therefore, when he or she lives according to God's design and purpose."*

A question to ask yourself today; are you operating and functioning properly in the body of Christ? Are you living and doing what He's designed and purposed you to do thru sanctification? Sanctification is conditional because your will is involved.

Jesus, who is the Word, sanctifies us as we set our minds to obey Him in keeping His word. It says this in **John 1:1**; *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."*

John 1:14-16 also says; *"14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, 'This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me [a]is preferred before me, for He was before me.' " 16 [b]And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace."*

Jesus is both the Word of God and God in the flesh. In order for a person to be in a state of proper functioning to be used for God's purposes, sanctification is required, and it can only be accomplished by obeying the truth found in Jesus and His Word which is the Holy Bible.

We are sanctified by truth. Jesus says in **John 17:16-18**; *"16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify[a] them by Your truth. Your word is truth. 18 As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world." 19 And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth."*

Jesus in the Word and He is Truth. Jesus sanctified Himself, who is the Word, so that we may be sanctified by truth, who He also is.

In **John 14:6**, Jesus also says; *"6 Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*

Believing in Jesus, receiving His Holy Spirit and becoming born again is what saves your soul, but while you are in this body of flesh and blood, ongoing sanctification of the Holy Spirit is required to be used of God for His purpose.

The Apostle Paul says in **2 Thessalonians 2:13-14**; *"13 But we are [a]bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through [b]sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, 14 to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Paul also says in **1 Corinthians 6:9-11**; *"9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor [a]homosexuals, nor [b]sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the*

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kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were [c]sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God."

Sanctification also is done by the power of the Spirit of God as **Acts 1:8** says; "*But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;*"

New Year's resolutions are big at the beginning of every year but unfortunately dwindle as the days, weeks and months pass. They often involve lifestyle changes of one sort or another, i.e.: diet, exercise, the quitting of smoking, drinking, drugs, medications, and other works of the flesh. As Christians we could make New Year's Sanctification's!

For example; almost all "R-rated" secular movies have something in them that you are exposed to as a Christian, be it sex scenes, profanity, violence, sorcery, etc. In reality, even PG and family-friendly movies will have a degree of these, yet somehow these get the thumbs up approval by the 'Christian Rating' ministries because the movie is 'family-friendly' even though they're showing sorcery, witchcraft and the like.

So, if you make a decision to not watch R-rated movies and only watch Christian faith-based movies, that would be great. But the sanctification by the Holy Spirit would require you to carefully examine even Christian movies and stop watching those that are compromising the Bible by adding or taking out of the Bible, having taken creative liberty that goes against what's doctrinally sound.

Many movies or programs may put a caveat saying that 'it's keeping with the spirit of the Bible', and the creative calls of Producers, Directors, Writers and Casting Directors add and take away things that are not even in the Bible or change the timing of the events. In doing so, they misrepresent Jesus and His word, the Bible, and lead people astray. If there is no budget to properly represent the Bible, don't produce it.

We've watched numerous movies where you get tired of saying, 'that's not in the Bible', or 'where did they get that from', or 'it didn't happen like that'. Some are even so 'candy coated' to look good and Christian, but they're produced by cults. It's misrepresentation of God's Holy Word. So just because it says; Christian, faith-based, family-friendly etc., read up on it first of all before you expose yourself to it.

How easy it is to be entertained by a Christian movie, justifying it by special effects and techniques, producers and actors, location and scenery or spiritual relevance isn't it? But is it scriptural? What you listen to and watch needs to be sanctified. The Lord is raising the bar for Christians in 2020.

There is a stern warning though in **Revelation 22:18-19** when this happens, it says; "*18 [a]For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, [b]God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God[c] shall take away his part from the [d]Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."*

So, if the faith-based movie you're watching or Christian music you're listening to is adding to or taking away what is written in the Bible, it's obviously not good. Isn't it interesting that you can pat yourselves on the back when you turn off R-rated movies because that is obvious sanctification, fleeing from ungodliness, and yet you fill yourself with apparent Christian or faith-based movies, programs or music that have added to or taken away from the Bible? That needs to be sanctified also.

Is the 'Christian world' you're living in, living sanctified and set apart from the world or is it still looking like the world? Is there compromise in your Christian fellowship?

The word of God does not change. **Hebrews 13:8** says; "*8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever*".

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Sanctification may appear to be legalistic, but in reality, it's quite liberating in that the end result is a lifestyle that is free from the bondage of sin and death.

1 Thessalonians 5:19-23 says; “*19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not despise prophecies. 21 Test all things; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil.*” *23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify[a] you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*”

I believe that one of the main reasons the Lord chooses the foolish things of this world to use for His Glory is that no one is able to glory in themselves and sanctification is all they have to offer God as they obey His word with the help of the Holy Spirit.

In doing so, it quenches the little ‘glory cloud or halo’ that some Christians have over their heads, acting very sanctimonious and religious because they’ve come out from among the world and are separate, yet their hearts are pious, prideful and full of religious legalism.

The Apostle Paul says in **1 Corinthians 1:26-31** to glory only in the Lord; “*26 For [a]you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many [b]noble, are called. 27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the [c]base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence. 30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption— 31 that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.”*”

[Matthew Henry's Commentary](#) says the following about this scripture; “*For, (1.) Few of distinguished character in any of these respects were chosen for the work of the ministry. God did not choose philosophers, nor orators, nor statesmen, nor men of wealth and power and interest in the world, to publish the gospel of grace and peace. Not the wise men after the flesh, though men would apt to think that a reputation for wisdom and learning might have contributed much to the success of the gospel. Not the mighty and noble, however men might be apt to imagine that secular pomp and power would make way for its reception in the world. But God seeth not as man seeth. He hath chosen the foolish things of the world, the weak things of the world, the base and despicable things of the world, men of mean birth, of low rank, of no liberal education, to be the preachers of the gospel and planters of the church. His thoughts are not as our thoughts, nor his ways as our ways. He is a better judge than we what instruments and measures will best serve the purposes of his glory. (2.) Few of distinguished rank and character were called to be Christians. As the teachers were poor and mean, so generally were the converts. Few of the wise, and mighty, and noble, embraced the doctrine of the cross. The first Christians, both among Jews and Greeks, were weak, and foolish, and base; men of mean furniture as to their mental improvements, and very mean rank and condition as to their outward estate; and yet what glorious discoveries are there of divine wisdom in the whole scheme of the gospel, and in this particular circumstance of its success!*”

We’ve mentioned sanctimonious a few times now, so what is it? As an adjective it is derogatory, making a show of being morally superior to other people. Similar words would be self-righteous, holier-than-thou, churchy, pious, pietistic and moralizing.

This is not sanctification, but rather religious works of the flesh and are a perfect example of what true legalism is.

[Easton's Bible Dictionary](#) defines sanctification as the following; “*involves more than a mere moral reformation of character, brought about by the power of the truth: it is the work of the Holy Spirit bringing the*

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whole nature more and more under the influences of the new gracious principles implanted in the soul in regeneration. In other words, sanctification is the carrying on to perfection the work begun in regeneration, and it extends to the whole man”

Romans 6:12-14 says; “12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. 13 And do not present your members as [a]instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.”

The definition continues by saying; “*It is the special office of the Holy Spirit in the plan of redemption to carry on this work (1 Corinthians 6:11 ; 2 th. 2:13). Faith is instrumental in securing sanctification, inasmuch as it (1) secures union to Christ (Galatians 2:20), and (2) brings the believer into living contact with the truth, whereby he is led to yield obedience "to the commands, trembling at the threatenings, and embracing the promises of God for this life and that which is to come."*

Sanctification is a process, not a one-time event upon salvation. To live sanctified is the normal lifestyle of a Christian, and is what identifies you as being Christian, it's not religious legalism in the outward form of appearing sanctimonious, but rather it is religious liberty, a true work of the Holy Spirit from the inside out that sanctifies you.

It's obvious that sanctification is an ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in a Christians life and that we are never going to be fully sanctified in our life time.

I know Christians who have all of the attributes of being sanctimonious, self-righteous, holier-than-thou, churchy, pious, pietistic, moralizing etc., and I believe the main reason why they are this way is that they have rejected the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and the work of Sanctification in exchange for the works flesh attained through religious legalism.

I believe that one of the main reasons that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is rejected by Christians is that it interferes with the works of the flesh attained through religious legalism and it requires a work of Sanctification by the Holy Spirit only.

So, it's the beginning of a New Year and often times we question ourselves by saying; what do I need to change in my life this year? But don't question yourself, ask Jesus. He may have a long list for you. Don't ask yourself because you're likely to change the list.

A good question to ask the Holy Spirit is; “What are what are my New Year's sanctifications?” He'll help you, He's the Sanctifier, He knows exactly what needs to change and go in your life. Don't make a list of resolutions, let the Holy Spirit make the list of sanctifications, He'll do a better job and will help you get rid of a sanctimonious attitude that you may have. He'll deal with it in a gentle, caring and loving way, plus anything else that needs to be sanctified in your life.