

Sanctification - Sunday AM 02/18/18

Introduction:

Have you ever known someone to have some thing that is very special to them? It is so special it will never be used which means it is a museum piece. On the other hand, we may have something that is for special occasions. Dishes for a special day such as Christmas or birthdays. Special suit or dress one wears for an anniversary, or a Bible one uses only for funerals. The Bible speaks of people who were sanctified, or a process of sanctification. What does this mean? How did something or someone become sanctified? For what purpose was or is something sanctified?

I) Looking at the Old Testament

A) What it meant

1. Connected to the word "holy" or holiness. To be holy, hallow.
2. It was something set apart from that which was ordinary or common.
3. To sanctify means to declare it as belonging to God, *Exodus 13.2*.
4. Examples of sanctification
 - a. The children of Israel were sanctified (belonged to God), *Exodus 19.5-6*
 - b. The Levites belonged to Him, *Numbers 3.12*
 - c. The tabernacle belonged to God, *Exodus 29.44*
 - d. The altar, *Exodus 29.36*
 - e. The waver offering, *Exodus 29.27*

- f. The feast and holy days were to be sanctified, set apart from ordinary business, as belonging to Yahweh. *Nehemiah 13.22*
- g. God was sanctified, *Ezekiel 38.23*

B) How were they sanctified?

- 1. Israel by leaving Egypt and entering the covenant at Mount Sinai.
- 2. *Exodus 30.25-33* reveals the process of setting apart.
- 3. The special days were set apart by what they did on those days.

C) For what purpose?

- 1. To serve and glorify God.
- 2. Tent of meeting and tabernacle were used to worship God.
- 3. Altar for making sacrifices to God.
- 4. The Priest were to minister at the tent of meeting, perform sacrifices.
- 5. Often the penalty for mis-using something was death.

II) Looking at the New Testament, *1 Corinthians 1.2*

A) What it meant

- 1. To be set apart from sin and to serve in Christ.
- 2. Christians are described as God's special people, *1 Peter 2.9*

3. Hence the word "saints" in New Testament to refer to Christians, those who were sanctified. *Romans 1.7; 8.27*
4. We belong to God, *Galatians 2.20* "I Am Mine No More"

B) How does one become sanctified? *1 Peter 1.2*

1. One is set apart from sin and world by the blood of Christ, *Hebrews 10.10*
2. *Hebrews 12.14* points out that one will not enter into heaven without being sanctified.
3. *Ephesians 5.26* by washing of water by the word. *John 17.19*
4. Sanctification is not a one-time act but a continuous process. One is sanctified when their sins are forgiven, when they obey the Gospel but there is a daily process. *Romans 12.1-2*

C) For what purpose

1. To be useful, not to be a museum piece. Paul was useful in serving God, so were the other Apostles and Christians.
2. Live daily so as to glorify God, *1 Thess. 4.3-4*
3. To worship God
4. To offer daily sacrifices.
5. To be God's special people. Uncommon, cleansed, and purified.
6. Application

- a. Are we sanctified in our moral stances: social drinking, manner of dress, lascivious conduct, man/woman relationships?
- b. In our worship: in attention during Bible Class or worship services, manner of dress, attitude during the Lord's Supper.

Conclusion:

Remember *Exodus 3* when God told Moses to remove his sandals because he was on holy ground? We are to remove all filth and sin from our lives because we stand before a Holy God and we are to be a holy people. You won't go to heaven without being sanctified, being holy, being a saint. One does not have to perform a miracle to be a saint, or be perfect. They have to be forgiven and strive to live a Christian centered life.