

**Sanctification:
Transformed Into the Image of Christ
Lesson 1**

I. Pre-Test As in many other areas of Bible doctrine, among earnest Christians, there are many varied opinions as to the nature and meaning of sanctification. Below are several representative statements from these divergent viewpoints about sanctification. What is your view?

- | | | | |
|----|---|-------------|----------|
| a. | The primary meaning of sanctification is that believers are set apart for God's use. | | |
| | Agree | Not Certain | Disagree |
| b. | One becomes sanctified at the moment of conversion and it is complete at that time. | | |
| | Agree | Not Certain | Disagree |
| c. | Sanctification is something that God does to me and in no way does it involve action on my part. | | |
| | Agree | Not Certain | Disagree |
| d. | I am sanctified. A person who is sanctified does not sin. Therefore my old sin nature has ceased to exist in me. | | |
| | Agree | Not Certain | Disagree |
| e. | True Biblical sanctification is a second work of the Holy Spirit that only some believers experience. | | |
| | Agree | Not Certain | Disagree |
| f. | By doing all that I can to do of God's commands I am demonstrating my sanctification. | | |
| | Agree | Not Certain | Disagree |
| g. | The full extent of my sanctification will not be manifest until I leave my mortal body. It is not measured by what I am, but by what I am becoming. | | |
| | Agree | Not Certain | Disagree |
| h. | If a person is really intent on living a holy life for God's glory then God will supernaturally protect him from bad things that could happen to him. | | |
| | Agree | Not Certain | Disagree |
| i. | God always blesses holy (sanctified) living in material ways in this life. | | |
| | Agree | Not Certain | Disagree |
| j. | Sanctification means being made holy. Holiness is an attribute that is essentially a mystical state of being | | |
| | Agree | Not Certain | Disagree |
| k. | The best evidence I can have for my personal sanctification is my personal experience. | | |
| | Agree | Not Certain | Disagree |
| l. | True sanctification before God will be manifest by an emotional experience of oneness with Christ. | | |
| | Agree | Not Certain | Disagree |
| m. | One's positional sanctification is entirely dissociated from the daily life of a believer. | | |
| | Agree | Not Certain | Disagree |

II. Series Outline

- a. It would be a bit presumptuous to assert that this series will accomplish the goal of providing spiritual insight into who God is or even who we are in His sight because spiritual insight is what the **Holy Spirit** provides.
- b. What we can deliver on, however, is that the material we cover in the next 20 weeks or so of this series, will provide you with a basic understanding of God's **point of view** of sanctification as revealed in scripture.
- c. We will spend a significant period of time connecting the dots between scripture and human experience so that when the afflictions come, as they surely will, you will have the **conscious** ability to respond with wisdom and insight.
- d. The outline of the material is drawn from an article appearing in the International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia (**ISBE**) but the actual material will be derived from many other sources, including some of my own original thinking on this topic.
- e. The *working outline (*subject to change as the series develops) is as follows:

**Sanctification:
Transformed Into the Image of Christ
Lesson 1**

I. THE FORMAL SENSE	II. THE ETHICAL SENSE
1. In the Old Testament	1. Transformation of Formal to Ethical Idea
2. In the New Testament	2. Our Relation to God as Personal : NT idea
	3. Sanctification as God's Gift
	4. Questions of Time and Method
	5. An Element in All Christian Life
	6. Follows from Fellowship with God
	7. Is It Instantaneous and Entire ?
	8. Sanctification as Man's Task

III. Introductory Comments

- a. This process of sanctification is the core experience of the Christian life. It is the **meaning** of this life and for the most part answers the question of "Why?" that we often ask when we are at the receiving end of some trial or misfortune. 1 Thess 4:3-4 *For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: 4 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; KJV*
- b. In order to understand our sanctification we must first understand some things about God. After all, it is in His image and **likeness** into which we are being transformed, thus sanctified. 1 John 3:2-3 *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. 3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure. KJV*
- c. Knowing that God is all good, all knowing, all wise, all powerful and all sovereign, we can trust that our lives are not some **strange** random sequence of unrelated events to be endured. 1 Peter 4:12-13 *Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:*
- d. Rather, we shall see that every experience and circumstance is presented to us by our Father who has designed us to look like Christ. Thus, He has specifically **chosen** the events and circumstance that will bring us to that end point. 1 Peter 4:13 *But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. KJV*
- e. In addition to knowing who God is we must come to grips with who we are as well. Many today are oblivious to the depths of their own depravity. Therefore, they overlook the fact that their **cleansing** from sin is ongoing. Heb 12:11 *Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. KJV*
- f. When difficult or painful circumstance arise, those who fail to plumb the depths of their own sin nature, often reason that they are innocent victims of the sins of others or they become **angry** with God that He would allow such things to afflict them. Jonah 4:1-3 *But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry. 2 And he prayed unto the Lord, and said, I pray thee, O Lord, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil. 3 Therefore now, O Lord, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live. KJV*
- g. Whether we fail to understand God or we fail to understand ourselves in God's sight, either way, believers often **stagger** and slip their way through the sanctifying process. It needn't happen in this way. Ps 73:13-17 *Surely in vain have I kept my heart pure; in vain have I washed my hands in innocence. 14 All day long I have been plagued; I have been punished every morning. 15 If I had said, "I will speak thus," I would have betrayed your children. 16 When I tried to understand all this, it was oppressive to me 17 till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny. NIV*
- h. What is needed therefore is that we see **all** experience that we as believers have, as a progressive step toward achieving God's purposes in and through us. And to see that His greatest joy and glory is to be achieved in our ultimate sanctification. Rom 8:28 *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. KJV*
- i. So, whether it is through joy or sorrow, whether through sin or victory, whether the circumstance is psychological or physical, financial or social; virtually everything we experience serves the **purposes** of God in our sanctification journey.
- j. Failure to comprehend this fact will have a profound effect on one's emotional well being, limit one's spiritual growth and maturity and may cast a shadow of disappointment and despair over the **joyful** experience of this life that God desires for us. James 1:2 *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; KJV*
- k. Conversely, when we have grasped the significance of the continual and unrelenting nature of sanctification, we are able to release all aspects of our human (**soulish**) experience into the hands of our loving Father and to trust Him more and more. Job 13:15 *Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: KJV*
- l. While sanctification may be where the rubber meets the road in the Christian life, it is only when sanctification is seen in its proper relationship to all other Bible doctrine that it can be properly apprehended, lived, and **applied**.
- m. Hence, the goal of this series is to describe, illuminate and make sensible from a Biblical perspective, the divine activity of the Holy Spirit in bringing us **to glory**. Rom 8:18-19 *For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. KJV*