

**Sanctification:
Transformed Into The Image of Christ
Lesson 5**

I. Relation to God Personal: New Testament Idea

- a. We do not get the full meaning of this thought of sanctification as consecration, or belonging, until we grasp the New Testament thought of our relation to God as **personal** and individual. 1 Thess 2:12 *That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory. KJV*
- b. The danger for the believer of today is that this consecration should be thought of in a passive way. This is not the case. The Christian's surrender is not to an outer authority but to an inner, living fellowship. This living fellowship demands a **response**. John 10:27 *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: KJV*
- c. The sanctified life is thus a life of personal fellowship lived out with the Father in the same spirit of Christ in loving trust and obedient service to whatever His **will** might be regarding any circumstance or experience of the moment. Rom 6:22 *But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. KJV*
- d. This positive and vital meaning of sanctification dominates Paul's thought. Like a diamond revealing its various aspects depending upon the light it reflects, Paul speaks of sanctification in **various terms**:
 1. Living **unto** God means that his honor and glory is our goal, we live by his word and will as our rule-in all our ways to acknowledge him, and to have our eyes ever towards him; this is to live unto God. Rom 6:10 *For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. KJV*
 2. Living **to** the Lord, or to have an eye to Christ is to remember that he sees us and is ever present with us, and that His authority obliges us to a faithful and conscientious discharge of our duties to Him. Eph 6:7 *With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: KJV*
 3. Being **alive** unto God is to have one's affections and desires alive towards God; to converse with Him as with a beloved; to have the love of God reigning in our hearts toward Him who has delivered us from death. Rom 6:11 *Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. KJV*
- e. So **completely** ought the life of the believer to be filled by this fellowship that he can say along with Paul, "It is no longer I that live, but Christ liveth in me" Gal 2:20 *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. KJV*
- f. From this it should be obvious that this fellowship is not passive, but actively and volitionally, responsive on a moment by moment basis. It is a very rich and active life, this life of fellowship to which we are **surrendered**. 2 Cor 5:9-10 *Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. KJV*
- g. Led by the Holy Spirit, it is a life of **sonship** lived out in trust as we encounter the experiences of this life. Rom 8:14 *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. KJV*
- h. It is a life of unconquerable kindness and good will **in spite** of what is done or said to us. Matt 5:43-45 *Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. 44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. KJV*
- i. It is a life of faith, faith that the Word of God is true and **applicable** to every situation and relationship of life. Ps 119:9 *Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. KJV*
- j. It assumes that by faith, God will guide, direct and assure the **fulfillment** of His plan and purpose in and through us. 1 Thess 5:23-24 *And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it. KJV*
- k. This life of fellowship is having the mind of Christ in **every** circumstance and about **every** experience Phil 2:5 *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: KJV 2 Cor 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; KJV*
- l. This sanctified life, then, is the life so fully surrendered to fellowship with Christ that day by day and moment by moment one's inner spirit and outward expression are literally **ruled** by His spirit. Gal 5:16-17 *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. KJV*

II. An Element in All Christian Life

- a. First, it must be noted that in the New Testament view, sanctification in the ethical sense is an **essential** element and inevitable result of all Christian life and experience. Heb 12:14 *Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. NIV*
- b. Since **Regeneration** is the implanting of a new life in man by the act of the Holy Spirit, it follows that in some sense holiness is an inherent condition of the new nature. Eph 4:24 *And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. KJV*
- c. This is so because by definition, anything that is from God **must be holy** and since this new life is from God it is ipso facto holy. Ps 145:17 *The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works. KJV*
- d. By extension, we may apply this same idea of holiness of action to the Holy Spirit as well. The Holy Spirit as **deity** can do nothing that is other than that which is by definition, Holy. Acts 5:3-4 *But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? 4 Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. KJV*

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- e. We may conclude then that there is **no Christian life** from the very beginning that is not the work of the Spirit. Since every one who is born again possesses this work of the Spirit we may say that every believer is holy in some sense. *Rom 8:9-10 Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. 10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. KJV*
- f. Regardless of how the name of the Spirit is phrased, this Spirit is the Holy Spirit, whether with Paul we say Spirit of Christ or Spirit of God, His presence in the believer, therefore, means holiness **of life**.
- g. So, from both the standpoint of consecration and personal ethical holiness, any person who calls Jesus "**Lord**" it is inescapable that such a person is Biblically both declared and demanded to be Holy. 1 Peter 1:14-16 *As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: 15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. KJV*
- h. Jesus, Himself builds upon the prophets in making this point: There can be **no religion** without righteousness; clean hands, pure hearts, deeds of mercy, etc. *Matt 5:6-8 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. 7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. KJV*
- i. These are not mere conditions of worship, but joined to humble hearts are themselves the worship that God **desires**. *Mic 6:6-8 Wherewith shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old? 7 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? 8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? KJV*
- j. Jesus deepened the conception of personal holiness of the true worshipers of the Father, but did not, change it, and **Paul** followed suit. *Rom 8:11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. KJV*
- k. There is nothing in Paul's teaching to suggest that sanctification is the special event of a unique experience, or that consecration and ethical holiness as qualities of sanctification can be **segregated** from one another within the believer.
- l. **All Christian living** is meant for clean, pure, right living, and that is the heart of the meaning of sanctification. Paul demonstrates this in the simple, practical way in which he attacks the bane of sexual impurity in his pagan congregations. 1 Thess 4:3-4,7 *"This is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye abstain from fornication; that each one of you know how to possess himself of his own vessel in sanctification and honor. For God called us not for uncleanness, but in sanctification"*

III. Application

- a. We as believers are both imbued with holiness and yet told to be holy in our living. In what ways does the Holy Spirit show you your condition before Him in your moment by moment transactions with others?
- b. What do you find that keeps you from personal holiness both inwardly and outwardly? (IE: attitudes; beliefs; self-talk; pressures; etc)
- c. While we are utterly dependent upon the transforming work of the Spirit for our ultimate sanctification, what are some of the things you can do to cooperate with Him?