

SANCTIFICATION
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Introduction: "Sanctification" comes from two Greek words meaning "to cleanse" and "to set apart." When God cleanses us from sin and sets us apart for Himself, we are declared holy. He then begins to work out in our everyday lives what has been worked in. This produces "holiness" of life. Thus it is accurate to say that sanctification is the means by which we obtain and attain holiness (Philippians 2:12,13).

I. Three Facts About Holiness.

- A. It is a divine imperative (Romans 6:1-2; Hebrews 12:14).
- B. It is impossible for fallen human nature (Romans 7:23; 8:7).
- C. No kind of legalism can produce it (Romans 7 - especially note verses 24 and 25; Galatians 3:23-25).

II. Biblical Aspects of Holiness.

- A. There is a positional sanctification (holiness) in the work of Christ on the cross (Romans 6:6). This means that, when I receive Jesus, I am in a legal position of being declared holy. This does not mean that our lives are holy in deed, only in the way God treats us.
- B. There is symbolic sanctification in water baptism (Romans 6:3-5).
- C. There is experiential sanctification through faith and full surrender. Undoubtedly, God means for this to be part of the "salvation package" when we receive Christ. Unfortunately, there are those who receive forgiveness of sins as "fire insurance" only - they want to stay out of hell.

Such people want Jesus as Saviour but do not make commitment to Him as Lord. For such people there is the need of that commitment through definite act of faith. This step of faith includes the following three actions:

1. **Reckoning** (Romans 6:11) - this means that I suppose myself as dead to sin and treat the fleshly man as though dead. (Note: the tense of this verb indicates this to be an ongoing act of faith, not something done once and forever. There is, however, an initial step of faith here, often referred to as instantaneous sanctification).
 2. **Denying** (Romans 6:12 - we must say "no" to the demands of the flesh to sin (again, the verb is a constant and continuous one).
 3. **Yielding** (Romans 6:13) - i.e., don't habitually yield yourself to sin as you did before you came to Christ (the verb here is used in two tenses: first, it is a decision, or resolve, made, by faith, to stop the "sinning business." Secondly, there is an ongoing daily decision to continue walking in that decision.
- D. There is **effectual** sanctification through the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:1-10) - the Holy Spirit, as Teacher, helps us learn how to live out what we have been legally credited by faith. This is also called practical or progressive holiness and is directly related to our growth in the Lord. It is here that we become more and more like Jesus.