

The Abbreviated Doctrine of Sanctification

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There are a lot of words which get thrown around in Christian theology, so let's define this particular word, as it is a frequent theme in Scripture:

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1. General definition: *sanctify* means *to set apart [for God]*. *Sanctification* is both the act and the process which sets us apart to God.
2. Vocabulary:
 - a. The Hebrew verb is *qâdash* (קָדַשׁ) [pronounced *kaw-DASH*], which means, *to be pure, to be clean; to be holy, to be sacred; to set apart, to consecrate, to sanctify, to dedicate, to hallow*. Strong's #6942 BDB #872. This verb is found in a variety of stems, so that the meaning can vary somewhat.
 - b. The Hebrew adjective/substantive is *qâdôwsh* (קָדוֹשׁ) [pronounced *kaw-DOWSE*], which means, as an adjective, *sacred, holy, set apart, sacrosanct*; and as a noun, *saint, holy one, set-apart one, sacred one, consecrated one, one set apart to God*. Strong's #6918 BDB #872.
 - c. The Greek verb is verb *hagiazô* (ἁγιάζω) [pronounced *hawg-ee-AD-zoh*], which means, *to render or acknowledge, or to be venerable or hallow; to separate from profane things and dedicate to God; consecrate things to God; dedicate people to God; to purify; to cleanse externally; to purify by expiation: free from the guilt of sin; to purify internally by renewing of the soul*. Strong's #37.
 - d. The Greek noun/adjective is *hagios* (ἅγιος) [pronounced *HA-gee-oss*], which means *holy, set apart, dedicated to God, sacred; pure, perfect, worthy of God; consecrated*. Strong's #40.
 - e. There are a number of other words related to these 4, but this should give you an idea.
3. Sanctification is a 3-step process:
 - a. Salvation (phase I) sanctification; also called *positional sanctification*: we are set apart to God at salvation. We believe in Jesus Christ and God sanctifies us; we are made holy; we are set apart to God. This does not

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- mean that there are any actual changes in our lives. A person can be saved, set apart to God, and exhibit nothing which suggests that they have changed in any way. However, such a person is set apart to God forever.
- b. Experiential (phase II) sanctification; also called *progressive sanctification*: this describes the believer in time. Ideally speaking, the believer is growing by means of Bible doctrine learned while filled with the Spirit (which means, confession of sin). When he exercises faith in Bible doctrine, his righteousness is advanced.
 - c. Ultimate (phase III) sanctification: the believer is transferred from time to eternity and cleansed of his sin nature.
4. The Bible uses the vocabulary above to speak of all 3 stages of sanctification.
- a. Phase I sanctification: **By this will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all (Heb. 10:10). For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are sanctified (Heb. 10:14).** See also 1Cor. 1:2, 20 6:11.
 - b. Phase II sanctification: **As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it stands written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."** (1Peter 1:14–16; Lev. 20:7). Jesus prayed to God the Father that we would be sanctified in Bible doctrine: **Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent Me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth (John 17:17–19).**
 - c. Phase III sanctification: **...so that He might present it to Himself, the glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be holy and unblemished (Eph. 5:27). He [God the Father] has chosen us in Him [God the Son] before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him (Eph. 1:4b).** See also Col. 1:22 1Thess. 3:13 5:23 Jude 24–25.

More information on this topic may be found here:

http://gracebiblechurchwichita.org/?page_id=511

<http://www.swordofthespiritbibleministries.com/images/simplelists//NOTESSZ/Sanctification.pdf>