

BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED – GOD SANCTIFIES US (I)!

Sanctification



What's that?

Sanctification comes from the word *sanctify*, which means to set something apart from common use for God's use. When a thing or person is set apart, it becomes sacred --- God's special possession, fully consecrated and devoted to Him. Things or people can be set apart. Thus, in the Old Testament, the vessels in the Temple are said to be sacred, the priests and the Levites are called holy, and even the nation of Israel is said to be a holy nation, God's special possession.

Sanctification:

Two Biblical Meanings



- [A] Something that has already happened; something that all believers *now* possessed. For example, the believers @ Corinth were said to be "*who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints*" (**1 Corinthians 1:2**) and those @ Thessalonica were described as people whom "*God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.*" (**2 Thessalonians 2:13**)

- [B] Something that is on-going; something that all believers are *now* working at. For example, the believers @ Thessalonica were told that their sanctification is the will of God (**1 Thessalonians 4:3**) and Paul prayed that God will sanctify them completely at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ! (**1 Thessalonians 5:23**). In **Hebrews 12:14**, Christians are called to *pursue peace with all people, and holiness.*

In simple words, Christians are already *sanctified (holy)* and yet Christians are still being *sanctified*, called to *holiness*!

This is how our 1689 Baptist Confession puts it:

They who are united to Christ, effectually called, and regenerated, having a new heart and a new spirit created in them through the virtue of Christ's death and resurrection, are also further sanctified in a very real and personal way.

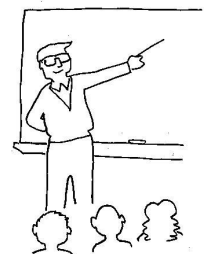
(Chapter 13 Paragraph 1)



The phrase '*further sanctified*' suggests that they have been sanctified (set apart) and are now undergoing further sanctification!



Let
Me
Explain!



- **Every** Christian has died to sin, meaning sin no longer has dominion over the believer!
- **Though** sin has been overthrown in our life (no longer sitting on the throne), yet sin remains in us and carries out guerilla warfare within!
- **Hence** a Christian still sin. But there is a big difference between *sin living in me* and *I living in sin*.
- **Because** he has already undergone a radical break with sin, the Christian is no longer at peace with sin. He fights against indwelling sin and will experience conflict and tension in his life struggling against sin.
- **Progressive Sanctification** is the name we give to this fight and struggle against sin. Every Christian will be involved in this.

Say to yourself every day: *I don't have to obey sin because sin is no longer my king! I must fight against sin because sin is my enemy!!*