

Sanctification

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Definition

God wills our sanctification¹ and since God does whatsoever He wills² then sanctification has to happen for every *true*³ believer.

In becoming more like Christ, the tool⁴ that produces this God-ward change is the Word of God, as Christ prayed for the believers. Paul also tells us that the way to prove the *will of God* (our Sanctification) is only by the renewing of our minds⁵. The Word of God is therefore key in reproofing, correcting and instructing in righteousness⁶.

The goal

During the process of sanctification the goal is always perfection⁷. The standard of perfection is not the world but God the Father himself. God has called us in order to *conform* us to the image of His *sinless*⁸ Son.

Sanctification, therefore, occurs progressively from the time of being born-again and goes on through-out one's lifetime and will end when we are glorified. Therefore, no one can claim they are perfect in this lifetime. Saying this would be equivalent to saying that we have no sin and calling God a liar!⁹

What does it involve for the believer?

For the believer his role is to *put-off* sin and *put on* righteousness¹⁰. We are to *cease presenting* our bodies as slaves to sin and instead *present* our bodies as slaves to righteousness¹¹. The above roles are not *passive* like in the case of justification but *active*. It is the believer's daily responsibility.

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1. 1 Thessalonians 4:3
 2. Job 23:13
 3. Unfortunately we have to use the adjective "true" before the noun "believer"
 4. Hebrews 4:12; John 17:17
 5. Romans 12:1-2
 6. 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 7. Matthew 5:48
 8. 2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 8:29
 9. 1 John 1:10
 10. Ephesians 4:22-24
 11. Romans 6:19