

**Twelve Lessons**

*on*

***Bible Doctrines***

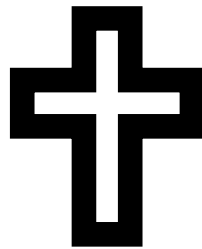
***Volume II***

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## **THE DOCTRINE OF SANCTIFICATION – LESSON 1**

**Introduction:** This is one of the most misunderstood doctrines in the Bible. 1) Some think it means sinless perfection, the condition in which the believer in the Lord Jesus Christ never sins, that there is a “second work of grace” that eradicates the “old nature”. I John 1:8 – “*If we say that we have no sin (sin nature), we deceive ourselves, and the truth (of God’s Word) is not in us.*” 2) Others think it means eternal destiny in the perfection of heaven. To be sure we will be completely sanctified when we get to heaven, we will be like Jesus then (I John 3:2). 3) Others think it is an ideal toward which Christians strive, but it is impossible to attain in this world. All of these ideas are not according to the teaching of the Bible.

Sanctification is a present reality and a future attainment of the Christian. It is present in that God sets each believer apart as sanctified unto God at the instance of salvation. It is future in that God calls on each believer to work out in his conduct the sanctified life-style that his sanctified position produces (Philippians 2:12-13).

The two-fold aspect of sanctification is indicated in I Corinthians 6:11 – “*And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, ...*”. In verse 20 these same believers are called upon to “*glorify God in your body, and in your spirit which are God’s.*” The central truth of this doctrine is; it is God’s will that the Christian live in holiness of heart and life (Luke 1:74-75; Hebrews 12:14).

### **Lesson Goals:**

1. Define the meaning of sanctification showing how it was used in the Old Testament to set apart things for God.
2. Review the three different meanings of sanctification in relation to salvation, service and glorification.

### **Definitions of Important Terms/Phrases:**

1. Sanctify – To be clean (ceremonially or morally); to appoint, bid, consecrate, dedicate, defile, hallow, purify
2. Holiness – A holy state: the state or quality of being holy; Consecrated; sacred
3. Progressive – Progressing gradually: developing gradually over a period of time

## **I. THE DEFINITION OF SANCTIFICATION**

### **A. Hagiamos**

1. The Greek word for sanctification is *hagiasmos*. The basic meaning is to set apart for special use.
2. The Old Testament speaks of sanctified persons and things. The priests were sanctified to the service of God. The articles of furniture in the tabernacle were sanctified, set apart for the use of God only. Thus, the basic meaning of sanctification is evidently to set apart for God’s purposes.

### **B. What is Sanctification?**

1. Sanctification is that relationship with God into which men enter by faith in Jesus Christ and to which their sole title is the death of Christ. It occurs at the instant one is saved, and is set apart or belonging to God (I Corinthians 6:19-20).
2. The setting apart in sanctification is not the result of human effort. Believers are “sanctified by faith” in Jesus Christ (Acts 26:18).

## **II. SANCTIFICATION IS USED WITH A SECOND APPLICATION IN THE TEACHING OF THE NEW TESTAMENT**

**A. The life of practical (experimental) sanctification is not automatic** once a person has received Jesus as Saviour. It must be pursued diligently.

1. The believer must make an effort to “*continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety*” (I Timothy 2:15).
2. He must have “*crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts*” (Galatians 5:24).
3. He must no longer surrender the members of his body to be used as weapons of sin (Romans 6:13-14).

### **B. Holiness in conduct is God’s will for the believer.**

1. I Thessalonians 4:3, 7 – “*For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication.*”
2. Following the principles set forth in the Word of God, the believer finds his life sanctified by the Word of truth. “*Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth* (John 17:17). This way we become more and more like Jesus.

## **III. THE SANCTIFICATION OF THE BELIEVER IS THREE-FOLD**

### **A. Positional Sanctification**

1. By “positional sanctification” we refer to our standing before God, not our character. God has separated us to Himself; we stand before Him as perfect as Christ, who is Himself our sanctification (I Cor.1:2,30)
2. Positional sanctification takes place the moment one trusts Christ as personal Saviour (I Cor.6:11-12)
  - a. At that moment one receives a new nature (II Peter 1:4).
  - b. We can no longer live a life of willful sinning (I John 3:9; Romans 6:6).
  - c. We become a “new creature” in Christ Jesus (II Corinthians 5:17).
  - d. Our physical body becomes a member of Christ Himself (I Corinthians 6:15).

### **B. Progressive Sanctification**

1. Progressive sanctification has to do with the lifestyle of the child of God in the actual daily experience of separation from sin to God
  - a. We are to “*put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness*” (Ephesians 4:24). That is the practice which agrees with our position in Christ.
  - b. As sanctified people, we must walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16). That means we follow His control, obeying His commands. “**WALK**” indicates lifestyle. We must live like people who belong to God.
  - c. God’s purpose in sanctification is to conform us to the image of His dear Son (Romans 8:29).
2. God has not left us without clear instructions to follow in our daily progressive sanctification.
  - a. Exercise faith. Believe that a holy lifestyle is possible--that God has provided all that is necessary (Romans 6:11).
  - b. Stay close to the Bible, since sanctification comes through the truth of the word (John 17:17,19).
  - c. Pray that God will enable you to live worthy of your profession (I John 5:14,15).
  - d. Be filled (controlled and empowered) by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).
  - e. Yield your life to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit in daily affairs (Romans 6:11-13).
  - f. Flee from sin in any form (Ephesians 4:22-23). That is how progressive sanctification is realized in your daily life.

### **C. Perfect Sanctification**

1. Perfect sanctification is the final and complete work of Christ at His coming when He will remove us from all control with sin so that our experience will correspond with our position (I John 3:1-2).
2. Philippians 3:20-21-- “*For our conversation (citizenship) is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able to subdue all things unto himself.*”

**Conclusion:** God’s work in you has been done, is being done, and is yet to be done. Keep on being available to Him. *God is not finished with you yet!*