



Word Study on Sanctification

1 Peter 1:2 "Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those ... who are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, **by the sanctifying work of the Spirit**, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure." NASB

"Sanctification" has become a theologically loaded term, with a lot of argument about it as a doctrine. The word, or some form of it like "sanctify" or "consecrate," appears several hundred times in the Bible. It seems unlikely to me that it would mean exactly the same thing in all contexts. The root word in the Hebrew means to "set apart" or "dedicate to someone or to some purpose." The root word in the Greek means to *not* be bad, literally "un-evil" or "un-nasty." The term grew to have a wider range of sense in both Hebrew and Greek.

Please read these scriptures and answer the related questions:

- (A) Genesis 2:3 Why did God sanctify the seventh day? _____
- (B) Leviticus 20:8 Who sanctified the Israelites? _____
- (C) Numbers 3:13 Who sanctified the firstborn? _____
- (D) 2 Chronicles 5:11 Who sanctified the priests? _____
- (E) Isaiah 66:17 Who is doing the sanctifying? _____
- (F) Ezekiel 20:12-20 Why are the Sabbaths sanctified? _____
- (G) Ezekiel 38:23 Who sanctifies the Lord? _____
- (H) Joel 2:16 What is done to the congregation? _____
- (I) Matthew 23:16-22 What are the answers to these two rhetorical questions? _____
- (J) John 10:36 Who sanctified the Son? _____
- (K) Acts 26:12-18 How are the Gentiles sanctified? _____
- (L) Romans 6:19 What results in sanctification? _____
- (M) Romans 15:16 How are the Gentiles sanctified? _____
- (N) 1 Corinthians 7:14 How is the unbelieving husband sanctified? _____
- (O) 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 What is the will of God? _____
- (P) What does sanctification mean? _____

Think & Pray _____

(Q) In 1st Peter 1:1-2 what is the relationship between sanctification and obedience?

Think & Pray _____

----- "SANCTIFICATION" ANSWERS -----

- (A) Genesis 2:3 Why did God sanctify the seventh day? Because it was the day He rested
- (B) Leviticus 20:8 Who sanctified the Israelites? The Lord
- (C) Numbers 3:13 Who sanctified the firstborn? The Lord
- (D) 2 Chronicles 5:11 Who sanctified the priests? They sanctified themselves
- (E) Isaiah 66:17 Who is doing the sanctifying? They are doing it themselves
- (F) Ezekiel 20:12-20 Why are the Sabbaths sanctified? So that the Lord our God will be known
- (G) Ezekiel 38:23 Who sanctifies the Lord? He does
- (H) Joel 2:16 What is done to the congregation? It is sanctified
- (I) Matthew 23:16-18 What are the answers to these rhetorical questions? The temple & the altar
- (J) John 10:36 Who sanctified the Son? The Father
- (K) Acts 26:12-18 How are the Gentiles sanctified? By faith in Jesus Acts 26:18
- (L) Romans 6:19 What results in sanctification? Becoming slaves to righteousness
- (M) Romans 15:16 How are the Gentiles sanctified? By the Holy Spirit
- (N) 1 Corinthians 7:14 How is the unbelieving husband sanctified? Through his wife (See Eph 5:22-33)
- (O) 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 What is the will of God? Our sanctification 1 Thess 4:3

(P) Christians differ strongly on what "sanctify" means Biblically and how it applies to our Christian doctrines. Most agree that in some sense it means becoming more Godly. There is little agreement on how long the process takes, the outward and inward evidence of its progress and completion, the agent of change, and its implications for salvation, justification and our daily walk with God.

I believe "sanctification" is a process that begins with salvation, ends when we get a new body at the resurrection, is managed by the Holy Spirit, and is less painful if we cooperate with Him. I believe that the inward evidence is growing peace and joy, and that the outward evidence is less sin and more love. I believe we are entirely justified at salvation and that sanctification is not related to justification except as a starting point. However, your opinion is as good as mine.

(Q) Romans 6:19, "...present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification." The Holy Spirit said it through Paul, not me. Argue with them if you want.

For further thought:

- [r] Compare the answers to questions K and M above. What did you learn?
- [s] Who is sanctifying whom in Isaiah 29:23?
- [t] What does "sanctified in truth" mean in John 17:13-21?
- [u] To whom is 1st Corinthians addressed? Does that include you?
- [v] 1st Corinthians 1:30 says Jesus Christ became four things to us? What does this mean?
- [w] In 1st Corinthians 6:11 three things were done to the readers? What? So what?
- [x] Is Psalm 141 a Psalm of sanctification? Why?
- [y] Read and discuss these verses in context:
 - Acts 20:32
 - Romans 6:22
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:23
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:13
 - 1 Timothy 2:15
 - 1 Timothy 4:5
 - 2 Timothy 2:21
 - Hebrews 2:11
 - Hebrews 9:13
 - Hebrews 10:10 & 15 & 29
 - Hebrews 12:14
 - Hebrews 13:12
 - 1 Peter 3:15

An exhaustive search of the scriptures for terms related to "sanctify" "set apart" "consecrate" etc. showed over 900 references. After discussing some of those above, you can easily find more.