

BELIEVERS BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
March 21, 2010

SANCTIFICATION

Lesson Four

SOTERIOLOGY
“The Study of Salvation”

Sanctification
1Thessalonians 4:1-7

- Preparatory Sanctification
- Positional Sanctification
- Practical Sanctification
- Perfect Sanctification

Key Verse: 1 Thessalonians 4:7 For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.

Introduction: Our standard of living, viewed from the financial and “*material side*” has risen to an all time high; but our standard of living viewed from the “*spiritual side*” has dropped to an all time low. Christians have time for sports, entertainment, travel and socializing, but little or no time for communion with God in prayer and study of His Word. Salvation requires that our new life correspond to our exalted position in Christ (sanctify ourselves). [Titus 2:11-12](#)

The Doctrine of Sanctification: One of the most misunderstood doctrines of our Christian faith. Many Christians either withdraw from it completely or else they associate it with experiences of fanaticism. The result has been neglect or a mistreatment of the truth about Sanctification. How do we pursue Sanctification? How are we personally responsible? [2 Timothy 2:19-21](#)

Sanctify Defined: The root word means “*to separate*” or “*to set apart*”

- A day can be sanctified. [Genesis 2:3](#)
- A building and its contents can be sanctified. [Exodus 39:44](#)
- A house in which a person lives can be sanctified. [Leviticus 27:14](#)
- A mountain can be sanctified. [Exodus 19:23](#)
- A husband can be sanctified by his wife. [1Corinthians 7:14](#)

Theological Definition: Sanctification is the sovereign act of God, whereby He sets apart a person, a place or an object for Himself in order that He might accomplish His purpose in the world by means of that person, place or object.

1. Preparatory Sanctification: That initial sovereign work of God preliminary to any experience in the life of the person who is to be sanctified.

- Jeremiah “*before I formed thee in the belly, I knew thee...*” [Jeremiah 1:5](#)
- Jacob “*the Lord said unto Rebekah two nations are in thy womb...*” [Genesis 25:23](#)
- John “*thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son...*” [Luke 1:13-17](#)
- Jesus referred to himself as the one whom the Father sanctified. [John 10:36](#)
- Paul “*was set apart for ministry long before the cradle*” [Galatians 1:15-16](#)
His conversion, commission and career were foreseen and foreordained.

2. Positional Sanctification: That act of God the Holy Spirit in which He sets apart every saved person. It is the first step in the experience of the believer.

Positional Sanctification is the fact and act of belonging to God. The believer is now actually set apart as God's possession and for God's purpose. Who then are the sanctified? All who have received Jesus Christ as savior have been sanctified.

- **1Corinthians 1:2** Two words in this verse stem from a common root: The verb "*sanctified*" and the noun "*saints*" The verb sanctified means "set apart" and the corresponding noun "saints" are those who have been set apart, the set-apart ones.
- **1Corinthians 6:11** "*and such were some of you; but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified*" Notice the order, sanctified precedes justified.

3. Practical Sanctification: The Christian's responsibility in the process of Sanctification. This has been a neglected phase of Christian doctrine. Things the believer must do in the Sanctification process:

- The Word of God in the Christian's Practical Sanctification. **John 17:17**
The Bible becomes a cleansing, sanctifying power in life.
- Know and reckon on the fact that you are dead to sin and self. **Romans 6:6**
- Believers are to yield their bodies to God. **Romans 12:1** and **1Corinthians 6:19-20**
- Practical Sanctification involves the surrender of the will. **Psalms 119:105**
- We sanctify ourselves when we walk in the Spirit. **Galatians 5:16**

4. Perfect Sanctification: That aspect of Sanctification related to the final perfection of the Christian. **1Thessalonians 5:23** has in view the perfect sanctification of the whole person: Body, Soul and Spirit.