

## Sanctification-Introduction

**Romans 8:33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.**

**Sanctification (hagiasmos)** - Greek - This root carries two inseparable ideas: “set apart” and “made holy” but the *order* is built into the grammar.

“**The Threefold Work of Sanctification**” is what God accomplishes in us:

1. What God has done, the past.
2. What God is doing, the present.
3. What God will do, the future.

**Sanctification** is God’s work, revealed in us through Christ; God’s inward work becomes outward fruit.

**Ephesians 2:4-8 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,**

The New Testament speaks of sanctification in these **three tenses**:

You “**have been**” sanctified (**past**)

**Hebrews 10:10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.**

So this is “**What God has done**” (**in the past**).

You “**are being**” sanctified (**present**)

**Hebrews 10:14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.**

So this is “**What God is Doing**” (**in the present**).

You “**will be**” sanctified (**future**)

**1 Thessalonians 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.**

So this is “**What God will do**” (**in the future**)

Tonight we will look at:

1. **Positional Sanctification**
2. **Progressive Sanctification**
3. **Perfected Sanctification**

## **1. POSITIONAL SANCTIFICATION — WHAT GOD HAS DONE**

*(Past, Completed — At Salvation)* From God’s Perspective. In Christ.

### **A. The Reality of Positional Sanctification**

**1 Corinthians 1:2** To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called *to be* saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

**Hebrews 10:10** By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*.

**Acts 20:32** "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified."

### **B. The Nature of Positional Sanctification**

**Romans 4:17** (as it is written, "I HAVE MADE YOU A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS") in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;

**1 Corinthians 1:30** But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—

**1 Corinthians 6:11** And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

## **2. PROGRESSIVE SANCTIFICATION — WHAT GOD IS DOING**

*(Presently — Ongoing — Lifelong)* From Our Perspective.

If positional sanctification is our **standing** before God, progressive sanctification is our **state**—our daily walk with God.

**Luke 22:42** saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."

**Hebrews 4:16** Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**Romans 12:2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

**1 Peter 5:7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.**

**Luke 9:23 Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.**

**Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.**

**A. The Reality of Progressive Sanctification**-is our daily walk (state of being)

**1 Thessalonians 4:3-4 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,**

**John 17:17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.**

**2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.**

**Romans 8:29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.**

**B. The Nature of Progressive Sanctification**

It is **a gradual growth**; change takes time to measure.

It is **cooperative**—the Spirit works, and we obey.

It is **evidenced by fruit**—love, purity, humility, obedience.

It is **fueled by Scripture**—the Word renews the mind and shapes the heart.

**Hebrews 12:14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:**

**2 Corinthians 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.**

**John 15:4-5 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.**

God uses His **Word**, His **Spirit**, His **church**, and even **trials** to shape us into the image of Christ.

**Progressive sanctification** is the believer's **daily journey**—not toward salvation, or in pursuit of salvation. It is because of our salvation.

**Matthew 12:33 "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit.**

### **3. PERFECTED SANCTIFICATION — WHAT GOD WILL DO**

*(Future — Final — At Glorification)*

There will come a day when, as believers, our sanctification will be realized. No more sin nature. No more struggle. No more flesh. No more battle.

#### **A. The Reality of Perfected Sanctification**

**1 Thessalonians 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.**

**Ephesians 5:27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.**

#### **B. The Nature of Perfected Sanctification,**

It is the **future**, not yet experienced. It is **final**, no more growth needed. It is **perfect**, complete holiness.

The Christian life is not headed toward despair—it is headed toward **glory**.

**Philippians 1:6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;**

Sanctification is the story of God’s grace from beginning to end.

- 1. Positional Sanctification-Past.** Christ’s work **for** us. We are sanctified.
- 2. Progressive Sanctification-Present.** The Spirit’s work **in** us— We are being sanctified.
- 3. Perfected Sanctification-Future.** The Father’s work is **completed** in us. Glorified. We will be sanctified wholly.

**2 Corinthians 1:20-22 For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.**

**Colossians 2:6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,**

**Isaiah 55:11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.**

## **ADDITIONAL REFERENCES**

### **1. Positional Sanctification-PAST**

**2 Thessalonians 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,**

This shows God sets us apart as His own at salvation by the Spirit’s sanctifying work.

**1 Peter 1:2 elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.**

This ties our being set apart directly to the Spirit’s work based on the Father’s choice and Christ’s blood.

**Hebrews 13:12 Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate.**

This anchors our “set apart” standing in the finished work and blood of Jesus.

**Acts 26:18 to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.’**

This shows believers are included among the sanctified the moment they come to Christ by faith.

**Jude 1:1 Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ:**

This directly names believers as already sanctified by the Father and safely kept in Christ.

### **2. Progressive Sanctification-PRESENT**

**Galatians 5:16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.**

This frames daily sanctification as Spirit-led walking that fights the flesh in real time.

**Philippians 2:13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.**

This shows our growth in holiness is empowered by God working inside us—desires and actions.

**Romans 6:22** But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.

This shows progressive sanctification produces “fruit to holiness” as we live under God’s lordship.

**Ephesians 4:23-24** and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

This shows sanctification is ongoing renewal of the mind that results in new-man living.

**2 Peter 3:18** but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

This makes sanctification a lifelong growth process rooted in grace and deeper knowing of Christ.

### **3. Perfected Sanctification-FUTURE**

**Romans 8:30** Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

This anchors perfected sanctification in God’s completed saving plan—ending in glorification.

**Philippians 3:21** who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

This points to final sanctification as bodily transformation into Christlike glory.

**Hebrews 12:23** to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,

This describes the end-state of God’s people as “made perfect” in His presence.

**1 Corinthians 15:53** For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

This anchors perfected sanctification in the resurrection change—mortality fully replaced.