

Fundamental Truths - Sanctification & Consecration Ian Gibson 2004

Sanctification

Sanctification - "to set apart from the rest", the believer is to be set apart unto God, and set apart from all that is sinful & worldly.

In general, there is One who sanctifies, i.e. the Sanctifier, invariably God; there is the person or object that is sanctified; and there is the purpose for which sanctification is effected.

Numerous OT references show that both persons and objects can be sanctified (see Exodus), set apart by God for His own purpose & will.

Sanctification to Salvation

A divine & sovereign work wrought upon the believer specifically by the Holy Spirit of God (2nd Thess 2v13, 1st Peter 1v2).

Like all the blessings of salvation, this sanctification is based upon the sacrifice of Christ at Calvary (Heb 10v10&14) and His shed blood (Heb13v12), and the believer comes into the good of it by faith in Christ (Acts 26v18).

Relative versus Vital Sanctification

The sanctification of an individual to salvation and possession of divine life might be spoken of as vital sanctification, in contrast to the truth of relative sanctification, which is a sanctification by association.

Relative sanctification is what is in view for many inanimate objects or materials that are spoken of as sanctified, e.g. "holy ground", "holy mount".

The food we eat is relatively sanctified by giving thanks for it (1st Tim 4v4-5). The unbelieving spouse & children of a believer are relatively sanctified (1st Corinthians 7v12-14).

Positional versus Practical Sanctification

Positional truth refers to what believers are in Christ, by means of identification with Christ. Once saved, positionally the believer is immediately "sanctified in Christ Jesus" (1st Cor 1v2,v30, ch6v11).

But the glorious position that we have in Christ must also have a practical outworking in our lives daily, hence the absolute necessity for practical & progressive sanctification in our Christian experience.

We are all "**called saints**" (1st Cor 1v2), i.e. "sanctified/holy/sacred ones", and there is a sanctified life befitting our calling as God's holy ones (Eph 5v3-4).

Practical sanctification must originate from within our inner man, in our spirit and in our heart (1st Thess 5v23, 1st Peter 3v15).

It is the will of God that we are sanctified by the offering of the Lord Jesus, (Heb 10v10), i.e. God's will relating to positional sanctification. It is also the will of God that we live sanctified lives (1st Thess 4v3-7), i.e. God's will relating to practical sanctification & holiness of life.

Holiness of life (1st Peter 1v15-16)

The necessary priority for holy lives, in all manner of life and living.

He that has called us is, as to his character, holy, so the responsibility that devolves upon me is to be holy in every part of my life.

Quotation found 3 times in Leviticus; the call to holiness in relation to appetite (Lev11v41-45), affection (Lev19v2-4) and separation (Lev20v22-26).

The imperative statement "**Be ye holy**", and the reason for holiness, "**for I am holy**".

Sanctification by The Word & The Risen Exalted Son of God (John 17)

The means for us to attain sanctified lives of holiness; we have the Holy Scriptures in our hands (v17) and a divine Holy Person risen & exalted in heaven (v19).

Consecration

Consecration is a related truth to sanctification, with the idea of devotion or dedication for the service and glory of God. The onus is on the believer to consecrate or dedicate their life to God & the Lord.

OT Examples of Consecration

Aaron and his sons were consecrated as High Priest and priests to the service of the tabernacle, the sacrifices and offerings unto the Lord (Ex 29 & Lev 8).

The coverings for the tabernacle included the outward badger's skins overlying the ram's skins dyed red. The basis of our separation from the world must be the truth of our consecration unto God.

The Nazarite vow (Num 6v1-12) emphasises "separation unto the Lord", an act of consecration which involved a mandatory distinctiveness in appetite (v3-4), appearance (v5) and associations (v6-7).

Consecration of Life to God (Romans 12v1-2)

v1-2: consecration of life in relation to God, my attitude Godward.

v3-13: consecration of life in relation to my fellow believers; v3-8, my attitude selfward, v9-13, my attitude saintward.

v14-21: consecration of life in relation to the world, my attitude outward.

v1 - our bodies, to be presented, thus fulfilling our service to God.

v2 - our minds, to be renewed, thus proving the will of God.

In v1, there is the great appeal of the apostle Paul in the matter of consecration of our lives to God.

1. The character of the appeal, "**I beseech you ... brethren**".
2. The basis of the appeal, "**therefore ... by the tender mercies of God**".
3. The substance of the appeal, "**present your bodies a living sacrifice**".
4. The logic of the appeal, "**which is your reasonable service**".

"And who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the Lord?"
(1st Chronicles 29v5)