

BIBLE STUDY: SANCTIFICATION

According to the Bible, to be sanctified is to be made holy, which is to be separated, set apart, for God and His purpose.

When God created us, we were for Him and His purpose. Through Adam's fall, however, we lost our holy position and became corrupted in our nature and thus were no longer for God and His purpose. Therefore, when God saves us, He sanctifies us both outwardly in our position and inwardly in our disposition, in our nature. He separates us outwardly from the world, from the fallen human race. He also saturates us inwardly with His holy nature, making us His holy people, as holy as He is.

The verses and notes below will help us to more clearly see both aspects of God's sanctifying work.

The Two Aspects of Sanctification

1. Positional sanctification: being separated to God from a common, worldly position; this changes our position but not our inward nature:

[Romans 1:2](#) and note [2³](#); [Matthew 23:17](#) and [19](#) and notes [17¹](#) and [19¹](#); [1 Corinthians 7:14](#) and note [14¹](#); [1 Timothy 4:3-5](#) and note [5¹](#).

2. Dispositional sanctification: being saturated with God's holy nature to be made inwardly holy in our nature, as God is holy:

[Ephesians 1:4](#) and note [4³](#); [Romans 6:19](#) and notes [19¹](#) and [19²](#).

The Process of Sanctification

1. God sanctifies us through the working of His Holy Spirit in us in three steps:

[2 Thessalonians 2:13](#) and note [13³](#); [Romans 15:16](#) and note [16³](#).

2. Before we believe in Christ, the Holy Spirit of God sanctifies us by convicting us concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment, thereby causing us to repent to God, to obey Christ, and to receive Christ's redemption:

[1 Peter 1:2](#) and notes [2⁴](#) through [2⁹](#); [John 16:8-11](#) and notes [8¹](#) and [8²](#).

3. When we believe in the Lord and are baptized, we are separated from the world to God by Christ's redeeming blood, and God transfers us out of Adam into Christ, thereby sanctifying us positionally:

[Hebrews 13:12](#) and note [12¹](#); [1 Corinthians 1:30](#) and notes [30¹](#) and [30²](#);
[Romans 6:3](#) and note [3²](#).

4. After we are regenerated through our faith in Christ, the indwelling Holy Spirit continues to sanctify us dispositionally through our entire Christian life, daily imparting into us God's holy life and holy nature, until our entire being—spirit and soul and body—is sanctified:

[1 Thessalonians 5:23](#) and notes [23²](#) through [23⁶](#); [Ephesians 5:26-27](#) and notes [26¹](#), [26³](#), and [27¹](#).

The Results of Sanctification

1. We become a particular people, a holy nation, a treasure for God's possession:
[1 Peter 2:9-10](#) and notes [9¹](#) and [9³](#); [Titus 2:14](#) and note [14³](#).
2. God's holy nature becomes our nature, and we spontaneously live a holy life, a life that expresses God in His holiness:
[1 Peter 1:15-16](#) and notes [15¹](#) and [15²](#); [1 Thessalonians 4:3-4](#) and all notes.
3. We become God's sons as brothers of Christ, thus fulfilling the purpose for which God chose us and predestinated us:
[Ephesians 1:4-5](#) and note [5²](#); [Hebrews 2:10-11](#) and note [11¹](#); [Romans 8:29](#) and notes [29²](#) through [29⁵](#).
4. We become the glorious bride of Christ, holy and without blemish:
[Ephesians 5:26-27](#) and notes [27³](#) through [27⁵](#).
5. Ultimately, we will become the New Jerusalem, the holy city and the wife of the Lamb, Christ:
[Revelation 21:2](#) and [9-10](#), and notes [2¹](#) (paragraphs 2 and 3) and [2³](#).

This Bible study uses verses and footnotes from the New Testament Recovery Version. You can order a free copy of the New Testament Recovery Version to use with this Bible study from www.biblesforamerica.org.