

1 Thess 3:13

...so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

What is sanctification?

Getting holy-fied...

Let's begin by simply talking about the word itself. It's from the Latin *sanctus*, meaning "holy". The suffix -fication means a *making, causing, or creating* as in the production of something.¹ (credit to Collins Dictionary as well as Merriam-Webster's) Think diversification, calcification, simplification. So, sanctification means "making, causing, or creating holiness". It is "holy-fication".

The first mention of sanctification in the Bible happens not to a person, or a place, or a thing, or to anything at all tangible. It happens to a space in time – the seventh day. "And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it..." (Gen 2.3 KJV) Here we find the first instance of a word that will be used in one form or another over 800 times in the Old Testament – surely one of the most common words and themes. It is קִדְּשׁ – key-DOSH. **This is what it means: to be holy, sacred, consecrated, separated from the common, set apart for God's use.** Most importantly, God is the "Holy One of Israel". "Holy" is what He is and who He is.

Sanctification is the process wherein we are

- Called out, separated, and set apart for God's use
- Cleaned or cleansed
- Made fit to live with God (transformed)
- Restored to the image of our creator

Illustrating Sanctification

- Dogs
- Kids
- Properties / Yards
- Magnets

Le 11:44–45

44 For I am the LORD your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy. You shall not defile yourselves with any swarming thing that crawls on the ground. 45 For I am the LORD who brought you up out of the land of Egypt to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy."

Heb 9:13

For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh...

¹ Inc Merriam-Webster, *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*. (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003).

Matt 6:9

Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

John 17:19

And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

What needs to be "holy-fied"?

What's the problem here?

- Our flesh (deformed, damaged nature) is not holy.
 - This is the carnal heart of man.
 - The theological and soteriological question of whether or not we have a carnal nature after justification. I think that having a driver's license is proof of this. ☺
 - IMPORTANT NOTE: The carnal nature does not need to be sanctified. It needs to die. The crucifixion of the flesh or death of the carnal nature is what happens during sanctification.
- The world is not holy.

Romans 8:7

7 Because the carnal mind is **enmity** against God

James 4:4

Do you not know that friendship with the world is **enmity** with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

1 John 2:15–17

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

Senses.

- Smell.
- Touch.
- Taste.
- Hearing.
- Sight.

Relation to the world.

- Time.
- Money.
- Words.

Eze 36:26–27

26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

Mt 15:18–20

18 But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. 19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. 20 These are what defile a person.

Ga 5:19–21

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these.

Col 3:8–10.

⁸ But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.

⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, **holy** and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. ²

¹² Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in **purity**. ³

Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, ² older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all **purity**. ⁴

¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, ¹⁵ but as he who called you is **holy**, you also be **holy** in all your conduct, ¹⁶ since it is written, "You shall be **holy**, for I am **holy**."⁵

³⁰ And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption... ⁶

² *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Col 3:12–17.

³ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), 1 Ti 4:12.

⁴ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), 1 Ti 5:1–2.

⁵ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), 1 Pe 1:14–16.

⁶ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), 1 Co 1:30–31.

Imago Dei – Image of God

“It’s just human nature...”

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God...

Our image and likeness of God was severely marred but not absolutely destroyed.

BEFORE THE FALL

Genesis 1:26-27 ESV

26 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness... 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

AFTER THE FALL

Ge 9:6

⁶ “Whoever sheds the blood of man,
by man shall his blood be shed,
for God made man in his own image.

Jas 3:9

⁹ With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God.

Eph 4:17–24

¹⁷ Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. ¹⁹ They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. ²⁰ But that is not the way you learned Christ!— ²¹ assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Col 3:8–10.

⁸ But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

Ro 8:29

²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son

1 Co 15:49

⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

Come, Desire of nations come!

Fix in us Thy humble home

Rise, the woman’s conquering seed

Bruise in us the serpent’s head

*Adam's likeness now efface
Stamp Thine image in its place
Second Adam from above
Reinstate us in Thy love*

Sanctification is Christlikeness.

Called to be... Saints

Yeah, but I just want to be a normal Christian...

ἅγιος = “holy ones” or “holies”

Rom 1:7

To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Cor 1:2

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

Eph 4:12

to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

1 Thess 4:7

For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness.

Eph 1:4

even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.

Sanctification – The Essential Nature

Is sanctification optional?

Heb 12:14

Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

1 Pe 1:14–16

14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

2 Pet 3:11

Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness...

1 Th 4:3–4

3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor

Rom 12:1

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Eph 5:27

so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

How are we sanctified?

What does the Bible say?

1. By God Himself.

1 Thess 5:23

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. By the offering of Christ

Heb 10:10

And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Heb 10:14

For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

3. By the Holy Spirit

Rom 15:16

to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

4. By faith and belief.

2 Thess 2:13

But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.

Acts 26:18

to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.

5. By His word.

John 17:17

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

6. By the discipline of God.

Heb 12:10

For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.

7. By presenting ourselves as slaves.

Rom 6:19

I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

Rom 6:22

But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.

8. By cleansing ourselves.

2 Cor 7:1

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

2 Tim 2:21

Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.

9. By our obedience to the truth.

1 Pet 1:22

Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart,

Companions of Holiness

Filling out the picture.

Holiness and blamelessness

ἄμωμος

Ephesians 1:3–4

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be **holy and blameless** before him.

Ephesians 5:25–27

25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be **holy and without blemish**.

Colossians 1:21–23

21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you **holy and blameless** and above reproach before him, 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

1 Thessalonians 3:12–13

...may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, 13 so that he may establish your hearts **blameless** in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

1 Thessalonians 5:23–24

23 Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept **blameless** at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

Holiness and godliness

εὐσέβεια

Reverence, piety, devotion

2 Peter 3:4–13

4 They will say, “Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.” 5 For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, 6 and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. 7 But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. 8 But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. 11 Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of **holiness and godliness**, 12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! 13 But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Holiness and honor

τιμή *that which is paid in token of worth or value*⁷

1 Thessalonians 4:3–5

3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, 5 not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God

Holiness and righteousness

δικαιοσύνη

Romans 6:19

19 I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

Holiness and cleansing

Καθαρίζω from καθαρός

2 Cor 7:1

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

1 Thessalonians 4:7

7 For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness.

2 Timothy 2:20–22

20 Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. 21 Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.

22 So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

Hebrews 9:13–14 (ESV)

13 For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, 14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

James 4:8

8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

⁷ H.G. Liddell, *A Lexicon: Abridged from Liddell and Scott's Greek-English Lexicon* (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1996), 807.

“History of Sanctification”

- 30 Years War and the strife of 17th Century Europe
- Kinderbeten⁸
- Johann Adam Steinmetz (1689-1762)
- Christian David
- Count Zinzendorf
- John Wesley

Some additional thoughts on sanctification...

Self-awareness is not a prerequisite.
However, self-delusion is a deterrent.

That which is not sanctified will be burned up... now or later

You shall be holy as I am holy is a promise as well as a command.

Yet perhaps the real “secret” of holiness consists precisely in learning to keep that balance: relying thoroughly on *God* as the true agent in sanctification while faithfully discharging one’s *personal* responsibility. “The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but victory rests with the Lord” (Prv 21:31).⁹

The simplest truth about man is that he is a very strange being; almost in the sense of being a stranger on the earth. In all sobriety, he has much more of the external appearance of one bringing alien habits from another land than of a mere growth of this one. He has an unfair advantage and an unfair disadvantage. He cannot sleep in his own skin; he cannot trust his own instincts. He is at once a creator moving miraculous hands and fingers and a kind of cripple. He is wrapped in artificial bandages called clothes; he is propped on artificial crutches called furniture. His mind has the same doubtful liberties and the same wild limitations. Alone among the animals, he is shaken with the beautiful madness called laughter; as if he had caught sight of some secret in the very shape of the universe hidden from the universe itself.¹⁰

I. They who are effectually called and regenerated, having a new heart and a new spirit created in them, are further sanctified, really and personally, through the virtue of Christ’s death and

⁸ Swensson, Eric Jonas. *Kinderbeten: The Origin, Unfolding, and Interpretations of the Silesian Children’s Prayer Revival*. Eugene, Oregon: Wipf and Stock, 2010.

⁹ Walter A. Elwell and Barry J. Beitzel, “Sanctification,” *Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988), 1900–1901.

¹⁰ Chesterton, G. K.. *The Everlasting Man* (pp. 53-54). Angelico Press. Kindle Edition.

resurrection, by his Word and Spirit dwelling in them; the dominion of the whole body of sin is destroyed, and the several lusts thereof are more and more weakened and mortified, and they more and more quickened and strengthened, in all saving graces, to the practice of true holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.

II. This sanctification is throughout in the whole man, yet imperfect in this life; there abideth still some remnants of corruption in every part, whence ariseth a continual and irreconcilable war, the flesh lusting against the spirit, and the spirit against the flesh.

III. In which war, although the remaining corruption for a time may much prevail, yet, through the continual supply of strength from the sanctifying Spirit of Christ, the regenerate part doth overcome; and so the saints grow in grace, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.¹¹

Some thoughts from C.S. Lewis

C.S. Lewis – *The Problem of Pain* – man and dog

Its great merit lies in the fact that the association of (say) man and dog is primarily for the man's sake: he tames the dog primarily that he may love it, not that it may love him, and that it may serve him, not that he may serve it. Yet at the same time, the dog's interests are not sacrificed to the man's. The one end (that he may love it) cannot be fully attained unless it also, in its fashion, loves him, nor can it serve him unless he, in a different fashion, serves it. Now just because the dog is by human standards one of the 'best' of irrational creatures, and a proper object for a man to love—of course, with that degree and kind of love which is proper to such an object, and not with silly anthropomorphic exaggerations—man interferes with the dog and makes it more lovable than it was in mere nature. In its state of nature it has a smell, and habits, which frustrate man's love: he washes it, house-trains it, teaches it not to steal, and is so enabled to love it completely. To the puppy the whole proceeding would seem, if it were a theologian, to cast grave doubts on the 'goodness' of man: but the full-grown and full-trained dog, larger, healthier, and longer-lived than the wild dog, and admitted, as it were by Grace, to a whole world of affections, loyalties, interests, and comforts entirely beyond its animal destiny, would have no such doubts. It will be noted that the man (I am speaking throughout of the good man) takes all these pains with the dog, and gives all these pains to the dog, only because it is an animal high in the scale—because it is so nearly lovable that it is worth his while to make it fully lovable. He does not house-train the earwig or give baths to centipedes. We may wish, indeed, that we were of so little account to God that He left us alone to follow our natural impulses—that He would give over trying to train us into something so unlike our natural selves: but once again, we are asking not for more love, but for less.¹²

C.S. Lewis – *The Problem of Pain* – Numinous

The moral experience and the numinous experience are so far from being the same that they may exist for quite long periods without establishing a mutual contact. In many forms of Paganism the worship of the gods and the ethical discussions of the philosophers have very little to do with each other. The third stage in religious development arises when men identify them—when the Numinous Power to which they feel awe is made the guardian of

¹¹ Philip Schaff, *The Creeds of Christendom, with a History and Critical Notes: The Evangelical Protestant Creeds, with Translations*, vol. 3 (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1882), 629–630.

¹² Lewis, C. S.. *The Problem of Pain* (pp. 25-26). HarperOne. Kindle Edition.

the morality to which they feel obligation. Once again, this may seem to you very 'natural'. What can be more natural than for a savage haunted at once by awe and by guilt to think that the power which awes him is also the authority which condemns his guilt? And it is, indeed, natural to humanity. But it is not in the least obvious. The actual behaviour of that universe which the Numinous haunts bears no resemblance to the behaviour which morality demands of us. The one seems wasteful, ruthless, and unjust; the other enjoins upon us the opposite qualities. Nor can the identification of the two be explained as a wish-fulfilment, for it fulfils no one's wishes. We desire nothing less than to see that Law whose naked authority is already unsupportable armed with the incalculable claims of the Numinous. Numinous. Of all the jumps that humanity takes in its religious history this is certainly the most surprising. It is not unnatural that many sections of the human race refused it; non-moral religion, and non-religious morality, existed and still exist. Perhaps only a single people, as a people, took the new step with perfect decision—I mean the Jews: but great individuals in all times and places have taken it also, and only those who take it are safe from the obscenities and barbarities of the unmoralised worship or the cold, sad self-righteousness of sheer moralism. Judged by its fruits, this step is a step towards increased health. And though logic does not compel us to take it, it is hard to resist—even on Paganism and Pantheism morality is always breaking in, and even Stoicism finds itself willy-nilly bowing the knee to God. Once more, it may be madness—a madness congenital to man and oddly fortunate in its results—or it may be revelation. And if revelation, then it is most really and truly in Abraham that all people shall be blessed, for it was the Jews who fully and unambiguously identified the awful Presence haunting black mountain-tops and thunderclouds with 'the righteous Lord' who 'loveth righteousness'.¹³

"There are always going to be enough enemies to obedience to him, that you don't need to a part of the opposition. And the problem with most of us is, we are a part of the opposition." Dennis Kinlaw, Podcast, "Suffering"

"Eradication – God is able to cleanse a man's heart of the inner opposition to the will of God." Dennis Kinlaw, Podcast, "Suffering"

Fifth column story – Dennis Kinlaw, Podcast, "Suffering"

¹³ Lewis, C. S.. The Problem of Pain (pp. 10-11). HarperOne. Kindle Edition.