

## The Doctrine of Sanctification: Part 1

Sanctification is the New Testament word *hagiasmos*, which literally means the “separation that produces holiness.” It is a separation from the things of the world and a separation unto the things of God. It is the consecration of ourselves to God, something that we can only accomplish with His help. It is not simply embracing moral virtues but a supernatural work that must be superintended by the work of the Holy Spirit as shown below. These nine New Testament verses teach the meaning of “sanctification.”

1. **Sanctification begins when we receive Jesus Christ as our Savior.** Without him it is impossible to be set apart, consecrated, or sanctified. He alone is our wisdom, righteousness, redemption, and sanctification, 1 Cor 1:30.
2. **Sanctification is not an optional add-on** to the Christian life. It is an essential part of becoming a believer and maintaining our relationship with the Holy Spirit, Christ, and God the Father, 1 Thess 4:3.
3. **Sanctification is the only way to appropriate moral purity.** We cannot achieve moral purity or remain morally pure in our own strength. The admonition of Paul to the Thessalonians was to possess, Greek *ptaomai* meaning to acquire, sanctification and honor. The word “honor” is the Greek *tima*, which means to recognize the value of respect for God, self and others, 1 Thess 4:4.
4. **Sanctification is a work of the Holy Spirit.** The Holy Spirit enables us to make progress in personal holiness. It is the power of God’s Spirit working in us that is the only means by which we can grow and develop in our spiritual relationship with God and others, 2 Thess 2:13a; 1 Pet 1:2.
5. **Sanctification is the Holy Spirit using the Word to help us Grow.** We grow and are preserved, protected and through the sanctification by His Word to be presented blameless at Christ’s coming, 1 Thess 5:23; 2 Thess 2:13b; Jn 8:31-32.
6. **Sanctification allows us to complement our salvation,** with obedience to God. God who knew before of our coming salvation, planned for our sanctification and complements our salvation as we grow in proportion to our obedience by the blood of Christ, 1 Pet 1:2. [Note: the word “elect” is not in the Greek text]
7. **Sanctification is an evidence that we are part of the family of God.** Just as chastening attests we are children when we are disobedient, Heb 12:5-8, so also sanctification affirms we are children by our obedience to God, Heb 2:11-13.

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