

The Doctrine of Sanctification: Part 3

Seven Biblical Tests of a Sanctified Life

How can we know if we are making progress in our maturity in Christ? What are the biblical signs of a sanctified life? Jesus expects us to be vigilant and to develop our relationship with God. He also indicates that our walk with God, our obedience and our holy character not only are evidences of our growth in sanctification; they are a witness to others of what God can do in a person's life. We are to let our light shine that others may see our good works and glorify God, Mt 5:16.

1. **The test of Christ-like love.** Jesus said, by this shall all know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another, Jn 13:35.
2. **The test of separation from sin.** Friendship with the world puts us at enmity with God, Jms 4:4. This does not mean we are to be unfriendly to the unsaved. It does mean that when we belong to Christ we will be attracted to those who also love him, they will become our closest friends, Col 3:1-3; 1 Cor 6:9-11.
3. **The test of humility.** God promises grace to the humble, 1 Pet 5:5-6, Jms 4:6-10. We are to avoid the arrogant and associate with the humble, Rom 12:16. Jesus is our perfect example of humility, we are to follow Him, Phil 2:5-11; Col 3:12-13.
4. **The test of appropriate actions.** Some things may not disobey the letter of the law, but are inappropriate for a believer. We should not allow ourselves to be under the power of unsuitable behavior, 1 Cor 6:12-20; 10:23-31; 1 Thess 4:3-8.
5. **The test of a forgiving spirit.** We are to forgive one another just as we have been forgiven of our own sins by God in Christ, Mt 6:12; 18:21-22; Mk 11:25; Lk 17:3; Eph 4:30-32; Col 3:12-15.
6. **The test of the pursuit of holiness.** Sanctification leads a person's consistent progress in the pursuit of holiness, Heb 12:14-17; 1 Pet 1:13-21.
7. **The test of spiritual fruit.** We should produce fruit and it should be appropriate to our being a child of God, Mt 3:8; 7:16-23; Gal 5:22-26; Heb 13:20-21.
8. **The test of an obedient, Christ-like walk.** We are to walk, that is to live our daily lives in a manner that commends the Gospel of Christ to those who are seeking the truth, Eph 4:1-6; 2 Cor 10:3-6.

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