

Study 7

Sanctification

In the power of the Holy Spirit to make believers mature, by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a holy life (Gal. 5:16).

What is a mature Christian? We will explore this question throughout this study, because it is important to the study of sanctification. In one sense, when we came to Christ, He *sanctified* us. In this sense, our sanctification is complete (Acts 20:32). But, the word has come to mean *the process of being made holy*. That is, *our pathway to Christian maturity*.

1. According to John 17:17, how does God sanctify us?

2. How could we describe a “mature” Christian?

3. How does Romans 13:14 paint a picture of what sanctification is?

Have you ever seen a Football mascot - the kind that wears an animal costume, or cartoon character costume. Some people picture Christianity as the believer putting on the “costume” of Christ. This is how they see Romans 13:14. But the reality might be closer to seeing this the other way around. That is, *we* are the costume that *Christ* is wearing. As time goes on, and the Christ within us ‘grows’ our ‘costume’ becomes more transparent (Col. 1:27; 1John 4:4). The longer you walk with Christ, the more people should see Jesus in you. The extent to which this happens is your level of sanctification.

4. How do you think Jesus wants to change a new believer? Discuss.

5. According to Romans 6:19, who bears the responsibility for our sanctification?

To be sanctified involves growth and change by the power of the Spirit as He convicts, challenges, corrects, and comforts. He primarily does this through the Word of God. As we read the Word of Truth with a view to growing into how Christ wants us to represent Him, we don't read the Bible merely with a sense of duty, rather we take SOAP to the Water of Life: *Scripture (write down the reference you are reading + Observations from what you've read + Apply what you've read + Pray about what you've read).*

6. How does God use others to sanctify us? Discuss and list-

7. What kind of attitude does a believer need to grow in Christ if God is going to use others to sanctify us?

8. How does Colossians 1:22 describe what sanctification looks like?
- [a] Perfect, without ever sinning
 - [b] Blameless, God's Laws are upheld and sins are confessed
 - [c] Pretending to others that you now no longer sin

Sanctification And Worldliness

Sanctification is that process of becoming increasingly different to those who are “*of the world*”. The Bible uses the expression “the world” to signify *those who live without reference to God* (note John 17:14).

9. What are the two things Jesus wanted His disciples to do based on John 17:15-18?
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As followers of Christ, we are *called* (read: “*commissioned*”) to reach the lost- those who have not yet received Christ as their Saviour. Eternity is at stake for many of our friends, family members, and neighbours. Christ expects us to both preach Him and to demonstrate Him to the world. This is why our sanctification is so critical. While our preaching *tells* the world about Jesus, our sanctification *shows* the world about Jesus!



F.W. Boreham ponders the instructions in the classic 17th Century book, *The Compleat Angler* (“*The Contemplative Man’s Recreation*”, by Izaak Walton, 1653). The angler fishing for trout is instructed to stay out of the water, face the sun, and not to draw attention to themselves. F.W. Boreham draws parallels between these instructions and the Lord’s Commission to fish for souls. *The angler must not get into the water...the soul-winner must not be like those in the world. The angler must look into the sun...this ensures that his shadow doesn’t spook the fish (a compromised life of a believer casts a ‘shadow’ over that believer’s witness and thwarts their attempts to save the lost from a Hellish eternity). The angler must not draw attention to themselves...the believer lives the kind of life that promotes Jesus and His grace, not themselves. All three of these angling instructions have spiritual parallels that are aspects of sanctification.*

Living a sanctified life will mean that we live quite differently to those in the world. In the world, people live with little regard for *the sacred*.

10. How does First Thessalonians 4:3-4 describe the will of God and what it looks like?

Sanctification And Evangelism

11. How does Psalm 51:13 (read the verses before this verse) show that a believer has a greater chance of leading people to Christ if they are growing in their sanctification?

Some Christians believe that they need to *do* what unbelievers do in order to reach them. But you don't have to become a Bank Robber to reach Bank Robbers. You don't have to be a cocaine user to reach cocaine addicts, and so on. In fact, while we should seek to relate to people where they're at, it will be the difference that Christ has made and is making in us that will attract people to our message of God's love and grace.

12. According to 2Corinthians 3:3, what has God made you to be?

"You're either a Bible, or a liable!"

- Rick Warren

The goal of our sanctification is to be made like Jesus (Rom. 8:29). The more we become like Jesus, which will actually result in us becoming who Jesus wants us to be, the greater the likelihood that people will be drawn to the Lord through you.

Amen.