



Sanctification

Sanctification is a big word. Imagine sitting in church for the first time and have a pastor talk about this word the whole sermon. He maintains that believers are sanctified. As a new person, not only would you be confused, but you might get turned off of God with these big words. The word sanctification is a really good word. It means to be set apart. Yet, it has roots in holiness and sinlessness. Then the pastor pipes up saying were all sinners and have fallen short of God. So, which is it? Are we sanctified or sinner?

The main idea is to be fit to approach the shrine. In Biblical times they would be washed and clean to approach Gods Holy places. The idea of baptism is derived by this thought. To die to self or uncleanness and rise again clean. The priest had to be clean to sacrifice to God. They were not even allowed to enter the temple unclean. In Jesus day a curtain separated the people from the inner chamber of God where the priests went. Being clean or sinless is part of this word sanctification.

Leviticus 20:26 says *“You are to be holy to me because I, the LORD, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own.”*

1 Peter 1:15-16 *“But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”*

So how do sinners come before God? Psalm 24:3-4 asks that question too “*Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? 4 The one who has clean hands and a pure heart.*” Sanctification is not just a word. It’s an idea. God demanded cleanness, holiness, and a sacrifice. You can’t just come to God. Clean in Biblical terms is depicted as a sacrifice that costs. That cost is one of the best that you have. In the ancient times it was a clean and spotless animal. You were required to come before God with a sacrifice. The best you have.

Ok, we don’t sacrifice anymore. So, how can we approach God then? God sent his Son to die as the last sacrifice. He was sinless. His blood (symbolically) washed over all who believe in God. You are now clean in his sight. Hebrews 10:10 “*And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*” It’s different for the first-time visitor of church. Christianity seems weird. It’s the reason so many don’t go to a church very often. Blood and sacrifices in the 21st century? Yet, religion is a whole new world. It’s vast and quite different than the real world. I actually call spiritual the real world. Wash the world from your eyes. See what God sees.

Why are there spiritual things? Why does the word of God exist? Jesus is just a person or myth, right? Religion encompasses these questions and more. Christianity is an extension of the Jewish faith. To hear the word sanctification needs context. It needs meaning. Hopefully, my tiny explanation makes sanctification a bit clearer. God demands his creation be clean of unholiness. He demands payment for the penalty of sin.

We need this word sanctification to go to heaven. We need this word to mean something to us. To mean what? That we accept Gods sacrifice for our sin. That through Jesus we look clean in heaven. It goes this way. Jesus represents us in heaven. He tells God he knows us. God does not see our sin but instead he sees Jesus as our representative. Sanctification is really a

process of becoming more like Jesus and less like the world around us. Becoming clean so to speak.

Church does not just speak big fancy words. They have significant meaning. Theology means something. Omnipotent means something. In business we use words like financial and extrapolation. What do they mean? All organizations have big words. Church is no different. I just hope that when they are spoken in church, we are able to understand them. They have little meaning if we don't. The meaning behind sanctification makes Christianity better once we get it.