The Doctrine of Sanctification

I. Introduction & Definition

A. Hebrew terms
   1. קָדַשׁ qadash #6942: to consecrate, sanctify, be holy, be set apart. Used 172x in OT (Gen. 2:3; Ex. 13:2; 40:9,10,11,13; Lev. 8:10,11,12,15,30).
   2. קָדֹושׁ qadowsh #6918: sacred, holy, saint. Used 116x in OT (Ex. 19:6; Lev. 19:2).
   3. קֹדֶשׁ qodesh #6944: holy, holiness. Used 468x in OT (Ex. 3:5; 12x in Lev. 23).

B. Greek terms
   1. ἁγιάζω #37: v. to sanctify. Used 29x in NT (Matt. 6:9; Jn. 17:17,19).
   2. ἁγιασμός #38: n. sanctification, holiness. Used 10x in NT (Rom. 6:19,22; 1st Thess. 4:3,4,7).
   4. ἁγίωσύνη #41 (2nd Cor. 1:12*; Heb. 12:10) & ἁγιωσύνη #42 (Rom. 1:4; 2nd Cor. 7:1; 1st Thess. 3:13): n. holiness.

C. For man, holiness means sanctification.
   1. We are to be particularly dedicated to God for His purpose and pleasure. This definition of holiness is consistent with the Hebrew קָדַשׁ qadash and the Greek ἁγιάζω.
   2. Holiness is not moral purity, but rather produces moral purity as the believer separates himself from worldly defilements (1st Thess. 4:3-7).

D. The holiness of God demands separation from all unholiness (Hab. 1:13; Ps. 11:4-7). Therefore, we are required to be made holy in order to enjoy eternal fellowship with Him (Lev. 19:2; 1st Pet. 1:16).

II. Development & Application: Sanctification Classifications.

Robert Wilkin surveyed the NT passages dealing with sanctification, and categorized 117 passages as follows. 90 of those passages addressed past sanctification (76.9% of the total). 24 passages (20.5%) addressed present sanctification. 3 passages (2.6%) addressed future sanctification.

A. Association Sanctification refers to the blessings by association that even an unbeliever receives by virtue of their connection to believers (1st Cor. 7:14).
B. Pre-salvation Sanctification refers to the past completed work of God on behalf of the unbeliever in preparing and equipping them for gospel hearing (2nd Thess. 2:13; 1st Pet. 1:2).
C. Positional Sanctification refers to the past completed eternal work of God on behalf of the believer at the moment of their salvation (Heb. 10:10,14,29).
   1. Positional Sanctification includes Cleansing Sanctification (Eph. 5:26; Heb. 9:13,14).
   2. Positional Sanctification is the mark of our relationship as brethren (Heb. 2:11).
   3. Positional Sanctification places us in the sphere of Christ (1st Cor. 1:2).
   4. Positional Sanctification places us in the sphere of our new creation (Eph. 4:24).
   6. Positional Sanctification takes us out of the sphere of the unrighteous, and defines every born-again believer as a saint (1st Cor. 6:1,11).

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D. Progressive Sanctification refers to the present ongoing work of God on behalf of the believer throughout their walk on Earth.

1. Progressive Sanctification is a command for every believer (1st Pet. 1:15,16).
2. Progressive Sanctification is accomplished through the work of the Word of God in the believer’s heart (Jn. 17:17,19).
3. Progressive Sanctification is the sphere of walking in fellowship (Rom. 6:19,22).
   a. These are the only believers prepared for God’s work (2nd Tim. 2:21).
   b. Confession of sin is our cleansing/purifying procedure (Jms. 4:8).
4. Under Progressive Sanctification, the saint will faithfully maintain custody of his holy trust (Matt. 7:6), and faithfully execute his holy mission (Jn. 10:36; 2nd Cor. 1:12).
5. Progressive Sanctification is the sphere for our spiritual service of worship (Rom. 12:1; 15:16; Heb. 6:10; 10:19ff.).
6. Progressive Sanctification encompasses both the body and spirit (1st Cor. 7:34; 2nd Cor. 7:1).
7. Progressive Sanctification produces moral purity (1st Thess. 4:3-7; Eph. 5:3ff.; 2nd Pet. 3:11).
8. Progressive Sanctification is a sphere of worthiness for Christian hospitality (Rom. 16:2; 1st Tim. 5:10; Philem. 7), generosity (Rom. 12:13; 2nd Cor. 8:4), affection (Rom. 16:16; 1st Cor. 16:20; 2nd Cor. 13:12,13; 1st Thess. 5:26; Phil. 4:21,22; Col. 1:4), and prayer (Eph. 6:18).
11. Progressive Sanctification is enforced through Divine discipline (Heb. 12:10).

E. Ultimate Sanctification refers to the future promised work of God on behalf of the believer upon their entrance into eternal glory (Heb. 12:14).

1. Ultimate Sanctification will be the estate of the Bride presented before Christ (Eph. 5:26,27; Col. 1:22).
2. Ultimate Sanctification will be the estate of believers before God the Father (Eph. 1:4; 1st Thess. 3:13; Jude 24,25).
3. Ultimate Sanctification will be the work of God the Father (1st Thess. 5:23).