

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. **קָדוֹשׁ** qadowsh ^{#6918}: *sacred, holy, saint*. Used 116x in OT (Ex. 19:6; Lev. 19:2).
3. **קְדוּשָׁה** 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).
3. **ἅγιος** ^{#40}: adj. *holy, (n.) saint*. Used 229x in NT (Matt. 7:6; 1st Pet. 1:15,16).
4. **ἁγιότης** ^{#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.¹

- 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).
 5. Positional Sanctification places us in the sphere of our inheritance (Acts 20:32; 26:18).
 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).

¹ Robert N. Wilkin, Journal of the Grace Evangelical Society, Vol. 6 (Spring 1993), p.16.

- 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).
 9. Progressive Sanctification enables believers to exercise Practical Sanctification (1st Tim. 4:5).
 10. Progressive Sanctification empowers the believer to engage in effective evangelism (1st Pet. 3:15).
 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).