

BIG WORDS

Word 6: Sanctification

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Big Words, Simple Definitions

Salvation – Jesus saves

Propitiation – Jesus takes

Redemption – Jesus pays

Justification – Jesus stands

Regeneration – Holy Spirit revives

Sanctification – God works

sanc•ti•fi•ca•tion | 'sa, ng (k)tə fi 'kā sH ən |

noun Theology

The ongoing work of God to make us holy

Two Perspectives on Sanctification:

1. It's all on God (Romans 7:18)

2. It's all on me (Leviticus 11:44)

The Truth About Sanctification

Sanctification is a partnership between us and God

My Part: Philippians 2:12 – Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling...

God's Part: Philippians 2:13 – ...for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

Sanctification is God's will for each of us

It is God's will that you should be sanctified... – *1 Thessalonians 4:3a*

Sanctification is a life-long challenge

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. – *Philippians 3:12-14*

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Sanctification has one goal: love

My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. – *John 17:15-19*

The Promise about the Process

In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. – *Philippians 1:4-6*

Next Steps

For Young Adults: Explore what it means to honor God in your dating, engagement, or marriage relationships. Join us at Elevate's Young Adult Relationship Night, this Sunday, May 23, 6:00-8:00 PM in the Meeting Place.

For Men: As you partner with God in your process of sanctification, partner with other men too for mutual support and encouragement. Check out MentorMen & Men's Small Groups; full details in What's Happening, available in the Commons.

For Anyone: John 17:17 reminds us that God sanctifies us through truth, and that his word is truth. Now is a great time to pick up the Bible reading guide, *Two Years Through the Bible*, to start reading the word of God daily. \$1 at the Connection Point.

Also, pick up the book *Gaining Spiritual Ground, A Practical Guide to Sanctification* by Rick Campbell. It's a terrific exploration of sanctification from a biblical recovery perspective that will make sense to many of us. Available at the Connection Point for just \$10.00.

On your way home

Take some time and think about your spiritual life. Thank God for the changes that He has made in you. Pray and ask God to continue that good work in your life.

Small Group Discussion Questions



- 1) What did you do when the sun was out last week?
- 2) What is the most challenging process you have faced in your life? For example: education, recovery, dealing with emotional issues. Why was it so challenging?
- 3) What is the most significant act of spiritual growth that God has done in you? What has changed in you because of his good work?
- 4) How are you "working out your salvation with fear and trembling" this week?
- 5) How can we pray for you tonight?