



GRACE GOSPEL MINISTRY

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SANCTIFICATION

The Greek word *ahy·ee·as·mos* translated “sanctification”, denotes "separation, or a setting apart as holy unto God". In defining this term, it must be noted that the attribute of holiness is exclusively ascribed to God alone; thus man in and of his actions, is incapable of being holy or producing sanctification (Romans 3:10, 23). With this in mind, it must be ascertained that man has no input into sanctification; this being totally an act of God in which man is not a participator.

Sanctification should never be construed as a natural process in the spiritual development of the believer, nor brought down to the level of human achievement, as it is taught in much of Christendom. We are considered as holy and without blame before God simply because we were chosen in Christ Jesus before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4,5). As members of His body we are identified with Him. This identity ascribed as holiness, belongs to our Lord Jesus Christ. Thus just as righteousness is imputed unto the elect, sanctification is the act of God “separating or setting apart” selected ones (by Him) to His glory (1 Corinthians 1:30; 2Thessaionians 2:13; 1Peter 1:2).

Accordingly, so called “progressive or practical sanctification”, as some teach it, is at it’s best misleading and at it’s worst incorrect. The continuous transformation of the moral and spiritual character of the believer actually depicts ones development into maturity in the separated position in Christ Jesus. 1Corinthians 6:11 teaches that the Spirit of God washed, justified and sanctified the elect in eternity. Observe that all of the verbs in this verse of scripture (washed, justified, sanctified) as viewed utilizing the Greek grammar, are in the indicative mood (statement of fact), aorist tense (past completed action) and passive voice (action is received). Thus the essence of sanctification is something that every believer possesses positionally aside from ones personal conduct. The progression of matured conduct in those sanctified; is corroborating testimony to God’s holy attributes being practically developed in His “saints”.

The distinction of the position of “sainthood” should always be regarded in the highest esteem in ones daily life. The Greek noun *ahy·ee·os* rendered “saint”, denotes one who is positionally sanctified (holy), which includes all the elect of God, duly designated by the fact of being “set apart” by Him. It is exclusively by the means of election that we are separated unto God; based solely on the merit of Jesus Christ and our identification with Him. Accordingly, good moral conduct plays a very important role in testimony of the identification of the saint’s status of sanctification, which was established in eternity, as was every other aspect of our salvation.