

## Doctrine of Self-Sanctification

1. The practice of some form of self-sanctification is an established principle in the Word of God. In the Old Testament the people of God were reminded often to set themselves apart in a special way for service and sacrifice, and worship.
2. The priests of God were to sanctify themselves before entering into His presence.
  - *Exodus 19:22 And let the priests also, which come near to the LORD, sanctify themselves, lest the LORD break forth upon them.*
3. The people of God were to sanctify themselves, and be a holy people.
  - *Leviticus 11:44 For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*
  - *Leviticus 20:7 Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God.*
4. When a new home was established it could be sanctified unto the Lord.
  - *Leviticus 27:14 And when a man shall sanctify his house to be holy unto the LORD, then the priest shall estimate it, whether it be good or bad: as the priest shall estimate it, so shall it stand.*
5. The Lord was pleased when man sanctified a portion of his possession.
  - *Leviticus 27:16 And if a man shall sanctify unto the LORD some part of a field of his possession, then thy estimation shall be according to the seed thereof: an homer of barley seed shall be valued at fifty shekels of silver.*
6. Prior to receiving a blessing of God, the children of Israel sanctified themselves.
  - *Numbers 11:18 And say thou unto the people, Sanctify yourselves against to morrow, and ye shall eat flesh: for ye have wept in the ears of the LORD, saying, Who shall give us flesh to eat? For it was well with us in Egypt: therefore the LORD will give you flesh, and ye shall eat.*
7. When God's people sanctify themselves, divine wonders can be performed.
  - *Joshua 3:5 And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves: for to morrow the LORD will do wonders among you.*

8. Practical godliness involves self-sanctification, and thus a measure of personal responsibility to root out inward corruption.
- *Joshua 7:13 Up, sanctify the people, and say, Sanctify yourselves against to morrow: for thus saith the LORD God of Israel, There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel: thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you.*
9. The prophet Samuel called upon the family of Jesse to sanctify themselves, even though they did not know they would receive a great blessing from the Lord. Personal holiness is its own virtue.
- *1 Samuel 16:5 And he said, Peaceably: I am come to sacrifice unto the LORD: sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice. And he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and called them to the sacrifice.*
10. No matter how menial the task for the Lord, divine service requires a sanctified people.
- *1 Chronicles 15:12 And said unto them, Ye are the chief of the fathers of the Levites: sanctify yourselves, both ye and your brethren, that ye may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel unto the place that I have prepared for it.*
11. Ministers of the gospel must lead the people of God in the matter of self-sanctification.
- *2 Chronicles 29:5 And said unto them, Hear me, ye Levites, sanctify now yourselves, and sanctify the house of the LORD God of your fathers, and carry forth the filthiness out of the holy place.*
  - *2 Chronicles 35:6 So kill the Passover, and sanctify yourselves, and prepare your brethren, that they may do according to the word of the LORD by the hand of Moses.*
12. God's people should exhort each other to holiness.
- *Nehemiah 13:22 And I commanded the Levites that they should cleanse themselves, and that they should come and keep the gates, to sanctify the Sabbath day. Remember me, O my God, concerning this also, and spare me according to the greatness of thy mercy.*
13. There are degrees of self-sanctification. Some individuals are more conscientious than others.
- *2 Chronicles 29:34 But the priests were too few, so that they could not flay all the burnt offerings: wherefore their brethren the Levites did help them, till the work was ended, and until the other priests had sanctified themselves: for the Levites were more upright in heart to sanctify themselves than the priests.*

14. The mercies of God are designed to lead the people of God to self-sanctification.

- *Isaiah 29:23 But when he seeth his children, the work of mine hands, in the midst of him, they shall sanctify my name, and sanctify the Holy One of Jacob, and shall fear the God of Israel.*

15. A feigned holiness will be judged.

- *Isaiah 66:17 They that sanctify themselves, and purify themselves in the gardens behind one tree in the midst, eating swine's flesh, and the abomination, and the mouse, shall be consumed together, saith the LORD.*

16. Ultimately God is the one who must save and sanctify His people. Nevertheless, the Lord uses means and gives grace so that a measure of self-sanctification can take place. There is human responsibility in the matter of holiness.

- *Joel 1:14 Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the LORD your God, and cry unto the LORD,*
- *Joel 2:15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly:*
- *Joel 2:16 Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet.*

17. Jesus has prayed for the sanctification of His people.

- *John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*

18. Because Christ has sanctified Himself, because Christ has prayed, Christians will be sanctified through the truth, or through Bible doctrine in the soul.

- *John 17:19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.*

19. One of the great purposes of redemption is for the Lord to have a sanctified people.

- *Ephesians 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,*

20. The apostle Paul prayed that God would sanctify, or make the church holy.

- *1 Thessalonians 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

21. Holiness is not without a high price. Jesus had to suffer in order for the Church to be sanctified.

*Hebrews 13:12 Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.*

22. The last word in the *New Testament* on this topic calls upon the Christian to recognize and accept personal responsibility for holiness through self-sanctification.

- *1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*

23. Unless the concept of self-sanctification is recognized there will be a passive phase in the Christian experience whereby sin in the soul is not radically dealt with. In fact, its very existence is justified.

- The heart will be tempted to say, *"I am just weak."*
- The heart will be tempted to say, *"If God does not sanctify me I cannot help myself."*
- The heart will be tempted to say, *"It is God's fault I am the way I am."*
- The heart will be tempted to say, *"I cannot change, I cannot be different. I have tried."*

24. It is instructive to note that in the Bible God never says, *"Try to sanctify yourself."* The imperative is given time and again, *"Sanctify yourself."* What God commands, He will give strength to perform for His glory, and man's good.