

Sanctify Yourself

1 Thessalonians 4:4

Introduction

1. Devotion to God is one of the most difficult things for people to learn, especially in today's world where everything is about serving self.
2. But the scriptures teach us that if we want to be pleasing to God and therefore have the hope of eternal salvation then we need to be devoted to Him.
3. The principle of sanctification makes this much clear.
4. Therefore, in this lesson, we are going to discuss God's principles for sanctification and how it applies to Christians today.

I. What Is Sanctification?

A. It is defined, "separation to God" (Vine's).

B. Old Testament Principle

1. Priests were sanctified (Ex. 28:41).
 - a. They were separated from the rest of the people. No person from another tribe could offer sacrifices.
 - b. Before they could serve they had to be made clean—made acceptable to serve God.
 - c. They had holy garments made especially for their service to be fore glory and honor (Ex. 28:2).
2. The Old Testament was merely an illustration (shadow) of what God was going to do in the New Testament (Col. 2:17).

C. New Testament Sanctification.

1. Under the New Testament Christians are made priests for God (Rev. 1:6).
2. Like the priests of old we put on new garments Christians put on Christ when they are converted (Gal. 3:27).
3. Thus all Christians today are sanctified (set apart) for the service of God like the priests of the Old Testament, only in a spiritual manner (Heb. 10:10; 1 Cor. 6:11).

II. Our Sanctification: Serve God acceptably (Heb. 12:28).

A. Our life is in serving God (Rom. 6:22).

1. Nothing else matters compared to this (Phil. 3:8).
2. As the groom leaves his father and mother and cleaves to his wife, so Christians leave all else in order to serve the living God. That is their life's purpose.

3. Like the priests of the Old Testament, when we put all effort into serving God, then we can trust that He will care for our needs (Compare Num. 18:8-10; Matt. 6:31-33).
- B. Though God sanctifies us, it is our responsibility to live as though sanctified.
 1. 1 Thess. 4:1-8.
 2. “Possess”: “Gain mastery over” (Vine’s). Take control of (as one who learns to control the car, we must control our bodies).
 3. What we are controlling it to do?
 - a. Walking to please God (Vs. 1).
 - b. Abstain from sexual immorality (vs. 3).
 - c. Not in passion of lusts (vs. 5).
 - d. In brotherly love (vs. 6).
 - e. In holiness (vs. 7).

Conclusion

1. Do you find things getting in the way of serving God the way you ought to?
2. Remember your sanctification. You have been made clean by the blood of Christ. But it is up to you to manifest that sanctification in your life.
3. If you are not yet a Christian, before you can begin serving God you must be sanctified by Him. Are you willing?