

# Sanctification

Series: Ten Messages from John 17

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Our Text: John 17: 17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. 19 For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

On March 20 I spoke about the idea of “not of this world.” We saw the definition of “world” according to Jesus. 1 John 2: 15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. 16 For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

The issue in sanctification or holiness is positioning one’s self so that we do not love the world or anything in this world. The world is infatuating. It draws us to itself. It is easy to develop a crush on the world. When I was young I had many crushes on a lot of different girls, as far back as first grade. I was always “in love” with someone. There was a distinct difference when I started dating Brenda. It may have begun as a crush, but it turned to true, devoted love that led to sanctification. Our vows were holy. It is called holy matrimony.

In our text there are three concepts regarding sanctification:

## The Sanctification of Jesus

“For them I sanctify myself...”

Before Jesus came into the world, he was set apart for the task. He was sanctified.

1 Peter 1: 14 As obedient children, do not conform to the **evil desires** you had when you lived in ignorance. 15 But just as he who called you is holy, **so be holy** in all you do; 16 for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.” 17 Since you call on a Father who judges each person’s work impartially, **live out your time as foreigners** here in reverent fear. 18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from **the empty way of life** handed down to you from your ancestors, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. **20 He was chosen before the creation of the world**, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.

Eph.1: 4 For he chose **us in him before the creation** of the world **to be holy** and blameless in his sight. In love

John 17: 24 "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and **to see my glory**, the glory you have given me because you loved me **before the creation of the world**.

## The Sanctification of the Disciples

17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth

1 Peter 1: 22 Now that you have purified yourselves **by obeying the truth** so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. 23 For you have **been born again**, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the **living and enduring word of God**. 24 For, "All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, 25 but the word of the Lord endures forever." And this is **the word that was preached** to you.

How does truth sanctify? It distinguishes between what is of this world and what is of God. We are constantly being attracted to everything around us-it begs us-it entices us-it lures us-it seeks to persuade us-it draws us. Learning to say "No" to the things that perish and "Yes" to the things that endure forever is learning to live in the truth, to walk in the truth, and to proclaim the truth. Truth is the only thing that will ensure our separation from the world.

## The Sanctification

18 As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.

The test of our sanctification is given by being sent into the world. Just as Jesus' sanctification was tested by being sent to this world. The temptations tested his resolve to stay true to the one who sent him.

Isa.35: 8 And a highway will be there; it will be called **the Way of Holiness**; it will be **for those who walk on that Way**. The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it. 9 No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast; they will not be found there. **But only the redeemed will walk there**, 10 and those the LORD has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

2 Cor.7: 1 Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, **perfecting holiness** out of reverence for God.

Jerry Bridges, **The Pursuit of Holiness** focuses his 16<sup>th</sup> chapter on “Holiness in an Unholy World.” He makes it clear that we cannot become holy by abandoning the world. We have been sent into the world to be the salt and light of the world. We are the change required to make the world more holy. He writes, “Maintaining personal holiness in an unholy world is admittedly difficult. The foregoing suggestions are not intended to make the problem seem easy, but to offer some practical help for a tough problem. Above all, we must look to Jesus, who though he ate with tax collectors and sinners, was Himself ‘holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens’ (Heb.7:26). And we must claim his promise that “No temptation has seized upon you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you are able to bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it” (1 Corinthians 10:13)

Remember John 17:15, My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.

As long as we are in this world, and until he takes us out of this world, we are operating within an unholy environment-one that needs cleansing and sanctifying. Each day we live our own sanctification is being tested. Just as we clean our clothes, our bathrooms, our floors, our cars, our kitchens, our dishes, and pressure wash our houses, so we must keep our lives free from the contaminations of the world.