

SANCTIFICATION

JUDE 1:1-2 • TV-025B

A television broadcast sermon delivered

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1976

By

HENRY T. MAHAN

Transcribed, edited and published

JUNE 3RD, 2020

HENRY T. MAHAN TAPE LIBRARY

Zebulon Grace Church

6088 Zebulon Highway

Pikeville, KY 41501

PH: 606-631-9053

Jude 1:1-2

“Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called: Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.”

Now we have a question for our topic today. I’m going to speak to you on this subject: **“WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT SANCTIFICATION?”**

I’m going to try to answer these questions: How is a person sanctified? Who is sanctified? Are all believers saints or just a select few?

Now how is a person sanctified? We have several beliefs about this. Somebody said, “It’s the most misunderstood, misappropriated, misrepresented, misused, doctrine in all the Word of God.” Well maybe so but I ask you some questions.

Is sanctification something that takes place after I’m dead? After I die do the church fathers meet together in a counsel and review my works and then take a vote on whether or not to sanctify me?

And if they vote “yea” then I’m Saint Henry from then on. Of course, I’m dead, but I then become by their vote Saint Henry. Now, there’s certainly no Scripture anywhere in God’s Word to warrant believing anything like this.

SANCTIFICATION

JUDE 1:1-2 • HENRY T. MAHAN

Second: Is sanctification to have a group of people, special, pious, religious, people, lay their hands on me and then (by laying their hands on me) declare me to be sanctified. Is holiness imparted by human hands?

Do I kneel in that meeting a babe in Christ and do I arise a mature, perfect, full-grown elder in the Son of God and that's done by human hands in just a moment of time? Impossible! And everybody who knows anything about God's Word knows that's impossible.

All right; is sanctification an experience? Is it an experience in life at one given time whereby my old man (my old nature) is totally eradicated? I have an experience that makes me from that moment on free from all impure thoughts, free from all idle words, free from all sinful imagination, free from all selfish motives and I am now perfect.

And that means I'm as good as God. In myself I'm as holy as God himself. While I'm still on this earth and in the flesh, not just outwardly but inwardly, not just an action but an attitude, not just in means, but in motive. I'm holy as God.

Well nonsense that everybody, every truthful person, every honest person knows better than this. Any person who knows what sin is, who knows who God is, and who knows his own heart and is honest enough to face his own heart and his own nature knows better than this.

And he has to say with Paul, *"I die daily."* It's a daily crucifixion. It's a daily submitting to the will of God. It's a daily surrender to Christ.

Well, is sanctification an outward piety, an outward display of subjection to religious laws, tradition, ceremonies, rules and regulations? This is what the Pharisees thought, for Christ said to them. He said; *"You appear beautiful unto men. You're like a grave. You're like a tombstone. You're like a sepulcher. (On the outside you look good. Down at the meeting house you look good: Down at the altar you look good. Down at the church you look good to men) but on the inside you're full of extortion and excess and dead men's bones."*

Sanctification is not an outward display of religious subjection to rules and regulations. That's not what it is at all. And anybody who knows anything about the Bible knows that's not what it is.

Well what is it? What is sanctification? What is it to be sanctified? Who is sanctified? Well, there are three Scriptures, now if you'll jot these down it will help you; there are three Scriptures that will help us understand the doctrine of sanctification.

First of all: **In Jude verse 1;** (just one chapter in **Jude**) *"We are sanctified by God the Father."* That's what it says; *"We are sanctified by God the Father."*

All right, **1 Corinthians 1:2** says this; *"We are sanctified in Christ Jesus by God the Father in Christ Jesus."*

SANCTIFICATION

JUDE 1:1-2 • HENRY T. MAHAN

And then **1 Peter 1:2** says; *“Through the sanctification of the Holy Spirit.”*

Now remember those three verses, sanctified by the Father, sanctified in Christ the Son, through the sanctification of the Holy Spirit. Now you'll never understand Scriptural sanctification until you see Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit working together to produce a church of people, a body, and a bride of Christ; *“without spot or wrinkle, a holy nation, a royal priesthood, a peculiar people, holy unto the Lord.”*

If you'll take your Bible and study **Ephesians chapter 1** you'll see the work of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit there in redemption. If we want to understand sanctification we're going to have to see we're sanctified by God the Father, in Christ the Son and through the work of the Holy Spirit.

Now, we must go to the Old Testament and to the New Testament. We don't have two Bibles; we've got one Bible made up of Old Testament and New Testament.

The Old Testament people were saved just like you are, by looking to Christ. They looked to the coming Redeemer. You look back to the Redeemer who has come. They looked to the one who will die on the cross. You look back to the one who has died on the cross.

The Old Testament is the New Testament concealed. Our Lord Jesus Christ quoted the Old Testament. Peter quoted the Old Testament. Paul quoted the Old Testament. And Luke wrote in the book of **Acts 10:43**; *“To Him give all the prophets witness.”*

The Old Testament is the New Testament concealed and the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed. It comes right out. What these words meant in the Old Testament are revealed right here in the New Testament.

The Old Testament gives us the Gospel of redemption in picture, an illustration. And the New Testament gives us the Gospel of redemption in person. And those who know the Scriptures best know this that the Bible is best interpreted in the light of the Bible.

If you want to find out what sanctification means you go back to God's Word and find out what it means, not to some book written by man, not to some creed or catechism put out by some denomination; turn to the Word of God.

Cut a diamond, with a diamond; the jeweler knows that. Interpret Scripture with Scripture. *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and instruction in righteousness. And no Scripture is of any private interpretation.”* It's got to fit in with the rest of the Word of God.

So, in the Old Testament Scriptures, the word *“sanctified”* is used many, many times. It has three basic meanings; now get this.

SANCTIFICATION

JUDE 1:1-2 • HENRY T. MAHAN

First of all: In the Old Testament the word “*sanctified*” means to set apart. In other words, it means this, that God takes something common, something ordinary, and sets it apart from the rest for Himself.

He takes something common. God in His sovereign purpose, God in His infinite wisdom takes something that is common, something that is ordinary, and sets it apart from the rest and He says, “That’s mine; that’s holy unto the Lord.”

Now I can make good on that. You turn with me to **Genesis 2:3**; listen to it, “*And God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it.*” Under the Mosaic law, under the Mosaic economy, God took one day out of the seven, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, the seventh day and God sanctified that day.

It was a common, ordinary, day but God set it apart and God said, “It’s holy unto the Lord. That’s my day. And unto this Jewish economy, under this Mosaic Law you shall observe that seventh day.” He sanctified it.

Now, that seventh day didn’t need a second work of grace. That seventh day didn’t need an old nature eradicated. So, that’s not what sanctified means there; it means to set it apart, something ordinary and common. God sanctified it.

All right, **Exodus 13:1-2**; listen: “*And the Lord spake to Moses saying: Sanctify unto me the firstborn. Whosoever openeth the womb both man and beast; it’s mine,*” God says, it’s mine, the firstborn son, the firstborn cow, the firstborn sheep, the firstborn ox; it’s mine. God sanctified to be His. He said, “Sanctify, set apart, the firstborn it’s mine,.”

All right; notice **Exodus 29:44**, He said; “*And I will sanctify the tabernacle of the congregation. I will sanctify the altar. I will sanctify Aaron and his sons to the office of priest.*”

So you see what I’m saying is this, that many times in the Old Testament the word “*sanctify*” means this; it means to take that which is common and ordinary and set it apart from all the rest and write on it holy unto the Lord; it is His, it belongs to the Lord. It’s set apart for His glory and for His holy use.

We can also understand the words of our Lord in **John 10:36**. Do you know what He said in **John 10:36**? He said; “*The Father sanctified the Son.*” Jesus Christ himself was set apart by the Father to be the substitute, to be the Lamb of God, to be the sin-offering, to bear our sin. He was set apart.

He didn’t have an old nature to eradicate. He didn’t need a second blessing; He was the blessing. But He was sanctified by the Father, that is, He was set apart from the rest of this race to be our sin-offering.

SANCTIFICATION

JUDE 1:1-2 • HENRY T. MAHAN

He said also in **John 17:19**; *“I sanctify myself.”* No man takes my life from me; I lay it down. *“A body thou hast prepared me.”* Christ was set apart, for God’s holy purpose and for your holy redemption. That’s the first meaning of being sanctified.

It means by an act of God, by the power of God, according to the purpose of God, he takes from among days, animals, and people, offices, buildings, and He sets them apart, *“These are mine.”*

So, when Jude writes this verse to the believer; in **Jude verse 1**, to the people of God; do you know what He calls them, *“Sanctified by God the Father.”*

God the Father hath before the world ever began in His all wise and holy purpose, from the beginning, set apart a people. He calls them, “My sheep.” He calls them, “My bride.” He calls them, “My own.” He calls them, “My jewels.” He says, *“They are mine.”*

And Christ said; *“All that my Father giveth me shall come to me. And this is the will of Him that sent me that all which He hath given me I should lose nothing but raise it up at the last day.”* We are sanctified by God the Father.

In **Jeremiah 1:5**; listen to this verse, God says; *“Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee. Before you came out of your mother’s womb I sanctified thee.”* “I set thee apart. I separated you. I said you’re mine.”

Paul wrote in **Galatians 1:15**; *“But when it pleased God who separated me, (who set me apart, who sanctified me) from my mother’s womb to reveal His Son in me.”*

Then Paul wrote in **Romans 8:29**; *“Whom He did foreknow He did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son. And whom He did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son He justified and whom He justified He called and whom He called He glorified. What shall we say to these things?”* Well, the only thing we can say is this; *“If God be for us who can be against us?”*

So, when you’re talking about being sanctified the first act in sanctification is that of the heavenly Father who puts His name on whatever He chooses and He says. *“It’s mine, it’s mine!”*

Secondly: Sanctified in the Scripture means, not only to set apart but it means to regard or to treat or to declare to be holy.

Now let me illustrate; go with me first of all, in **Isaiah chapter 8:13**; this is the Word of God; *“Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.”* Sanctify, talking to you and me, talking to Israel, sanctify the Lord God himself. Let Him be your fear dread, let Him be your dread.

The Bible is telling me to sanctify God. What does that mean? Well it means this; for me to sanctify God is for me to regard God as holy, to revere Him; He is holy. He’s to be held in awe. He’s to be held in reverence. *“The Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence.”*

SANCTIFICATION

JUDE 1:1-2 • HENRY T. MAHAN

I'm afraid they're not many people today that really sanctify the Lord God. They conduct their churches like three-ring circus. Do they really hold God in reverence and awe, and in dread, and in holy fear? Sanctify the Lord God; regard Him as holy, treat Him as holy, declare Him to be holy. The Lord is in His holy temple.

Listen to **Leviticus 10:3**; the Lord said, this is after He had killed some fellows for offering strange fire, desecrating the temple of God, then the Lord said, *"I will be sanctified in them that come nigh unto me."* "You going to approach my throne, you're going to approach my presence," God said? "I will be sanctified before all the people. I will be glorified." *"Holy and reverend is His name."*

My friends; in **Numbers chapter 20**; Moses said the people are thirsty; they have no water. God said; *"Well I supplied water to you from the rock. You smote the rock and it gave forth water."* *"Now you go speak to the rock. And when you speak to it, it will give forth water."*

Moses got angry. So he went out there and he was angry with the people. And so he stood before them and he called them a bunch of rebels. He got real ugly. He said; *"You rebels, must I bring water from the rock?"*

And he smote the rock. Well water came out and the people drank and they were satisfied. But God called Moses aside and He said; "Moses; you didn't sanctify me in the eyes of the people. Moses; you projected yourself. You called attention to yourself. You got glory to yourself. And for that you're not going to enter the Promise Land. Joshua will take the people in, not you. You go upon the mountain now and I'll take you home. You didn't sanctify me."

In these Scriptures the word *"sanctify"* means to treat as holy, to declare to be holy, to regard to be holy.

Now, with this in mind, you'll understand **1 Corinthians 1:2** which says, *"Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours."*

We, as believers are sanctified in Christ Jesus.

In Christ; if I'm outside of Christ I'm under the wrath of God. But in Christ who is my representative, my substitute, my refuge; in Him I'm holy. In Him I am pure. In Him listen to this Scripture, in Christ Jesus you are complete, *"For He is made unto you wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption, chosen in Christ, in Christ, that we should be holy."*

**"With His spotless garments on
I'm as holy as the holy one, in Him."**

SANCTIFICATION

JUDE 1:1-2 • HENRY T. MAHAN

In Christ, the Scripture says in **Colossians 1:22**; *“You are holy, unblameable, unreprouvable, in His sight.”* In **Jude verse 24** the Scripture says; *“Christ will present you holy without blemish in His presence.”*

That’s how you can understand **Hebrews 10:19** which tells you and me, *“Brethren come boldly into the holiest by the blood of Jesus.”* You and I can go boldly into the very presence of God, into the holy presence of God.

Now you know that God almighty cannot commune with that which is unholy. You know that God cannot have fellowship with that which is unclean. *“In our flesh dwelleth no good thing. In the flesh no man can please God.”*

So, when we come into the holiest of all we don’t come in our flesh; we come in the person of Christ. And in Christ we are spotless and holy. *“By one offering He hath perfected forever them that are sanctified. The blood of Jesus Christ, God’s Son, cleanseth us from all sin.”*

So that’s what sanctification means secondly. First, sanctified by the Father, set apart; He’s mine. Secondly, sanctified in Christ, in Christ our guilt is put away.

In Christ we have a complete redemption. In Christ we have a perfect holiness. When God looks upon us He looks upon us in Christ. Outside of Christ, God would be a consuming fire. But in Christ we are covered by the blood. *“Our sins are blotted out, separated from us as far as the east is from the west, cast into the depths of the sea, and remembered no more.”* I’m holy in Christ.

Thirdly: We come to the third meaning of sanctification and that is it means to actually purify, not just set apart, not just treat as holy, but actually to make holy.

This is not only to set apart or separate for God’s use and not only to declare to be holy as we are in Christ but this is actually to perform a work by impartation and by divine regeneration to make a man holy and righteous and honest and pure.

Listen to **Exodus 19:10-11**; *“And the LORD said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes, And be ready against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai”* God’s going to visit the people in person. Tell them to wash their clothes. Tell them to wash their bodies. Tell them to prepare to do business with God.

And this sanctification is a preparation of heart and a preparation of life and a preparation of conduct in holiness, righteousness, purity, and honesty for the presence of the Lord. Now this is what Peter’s writing about in **1 Peter 1:2** when he says; *“We are elect according to the foreknowledge of God through sanctification of the Holy Spirit.”*

SANCTIFICATION

JUDE 1:1-2 • HENRY T. MAHAN

The believer is not only set apart by God's purpose and God's grace and God's providence. The believer is not only accepted as holy in Christ; that's an imputed righteousness but the believer also has going on within him a divine work.

"We are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works that we should walk in them." We have a divine work going on in us in our hearts and in our lives whereby we're made holy, whereby we're made righteous, whereby we're being made like Christ in our attitude, in our conversation, in our conduct, and in our behavior.

And this is the work of the Spirit of God. It's a divine work. It's an inward work. It's something that God does in you and for you and to you.

Now, when we talk about righteousness imputed we mean that Christ's work is legally for us before the Father and justified. When we talk about righteousness imparted we talk about the Spirit of God dwelling in us. We talk about the power of God dwelling in us.

We talk about receiving in the new birth a new nature, a nature that hates sin and loves holiness, a nature that hates evil and loves righteousness, a nature that not only makes me holy in the church building but makes me holy in my business dealings.

And this is done by the Word of God. The Scripture says; *"Sanctify them by thy truth; thy Word is truth."* The more the Holy Spirit takes the Word of God and teaches you, the more you'll grow in grace, the more you'll grow in holiness, and the more you'll grow in the knowledge of Christ. *"Desire the sincere milk of the Word that you may grow."*

"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way, by taking heed to the Word of God?" So, it's a work; sanctification is a work that the Holy Spirit does in us. It's a work the Holy Spirit does using the Word of God. And it's a progressive work. We grow in grace.

The Bible talks about infants in Christ. The Bible talks about young men in Christ. And the Bible talks about elders in Christ. Those infants in Christ are new born babes.

It tells us not to ordain a man to the ministry or to the eldership or the deaconship who's an infant, who's a novice, who's a new person. He's not grown enough. He's not sanctified enough. He has not progressed enough in Christ. He doesn't know enough. He's got to be taught.

And just as you don't expect your children to mature overnight, to become full grown, mature, adults, over night; don't expect a believer to. But I'll tell you this, the more he becomes acquainted with God's Word the faster he'll grow, the more he'll be sanctified.

It's a progressive work and it's a work that produces the fruit of the Holy Spirit. We need to go to **Galatians chapter 5:22-23**. I do this myself; I hope you do and read for myself over and over again the fruits of the Holy Spirit. *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."*

SANCTIFICATION

JUDE 1:1-2 • HENRY T. MAHAN

These fruits are evidences of sanctification and the more mature these fruits are the more beautiful these fruits are, the more obvious these fruits are; the better health that tree is in.

Sanctification is; love, joy, peace, meekness, long-suffering, faith, gentleness, kindness; these are the fruits of sanctification in our heart.