

An open book with a black bookmark and a red and yellow striped ribbon. The text is overlaid on the image.

Three Tenses of the New Testament Grace Believer's Sanctification: Past, Present, and Future

Scripture Reading:

John 17: 11-19

INTRODUCTION

One facet of our multi-faceted position in Christ is that we are seen to be holy: separated FROM all unrighteousness and separated UNTO God's person and purposes

Most theologians use the terms "sanctify" and "sanctification" for the words "make holy" and "holy"

NT Scripture reveals that the NT grace believer experiences sanctification (holiness, setting apart) in 3 periods of time: past, present, and future

**Sanctified
(set apart)
in Our
Position**

This is a work **ONLY** God can do!

- Eph 1:4 – Chosen to be holy in Christ
- I Cor 1:30 – Christ Jesus became to our advantage a sanctification
 - Cf I Cor 1:2 “the church caused to be set apart in Christ Jesus”
- II Thess 2:13 – we are set apart to God by the baptizing work of the Holy Spirit into our position in Christ

SANTIFICATION: SETTING APART – HOLINESS IN OUR PRESENT PRACTICE

• God's Part:

- Jesus' personal sanctification
 - Set apart to PROVIDE OUR SALVATION– John 10:36
 - Set apart to PROVIDE OUR POSITION in Him – Jn 17:19
- Jesus' request to Father, that he would sanctify us - Jn 17:17
 - By sending the Holy Spirit to teach us and grieve in us when carnal
 - By child-training (chastening)
 - By THE TRUTH cf Jn 8:32
- By a continuing sanctification which GOD Causes
 - Grk verb perfect (tense), passive (voice)

• God's Part: (continued)

• By a continuing sanctification which GOD Causes

- Greek verb perfect (tense), passive (voice)
- Perfect-Passive = caused to be set apart in the past with continuing results
 - Acts 20:32 – perfect passive
 - Acts 26:19 – perfect passive
 - Rom 15:16 – perfect passive
 - I Cor 6:11 – perfect passive
 - II Tim 2:21 – perfect passive
 - Heb 10:10 – perfect passive
 - Heb 10:14 – active passive = being sanctified
 - Heb 10:29 – arist passive = had been sanctified
 - Jude 1 – perfect passive

SANTIFICATION: SETTING APART - HOLINESS IN OUR PRESENT PRACTICE

•Our Part:

- Exhortation to ACT holy – separated unto God –
I Pet 1:15-16
- Exhortation to set apart Christ as Lord in your
heart – I Pet 3:15
- An example of practical sanctification by a NT
grace-believer – I Thess 4:3-7

CONCLUSION

- ONLY GOD can set you apart unto Himself in Christ – and He has!
- But both God and the NT grace believer participate in our practical sanctification during our present-time
- Paul expresses a “wish” (optative mood) in I Thess 5:23 that (the) God of (the) peace (between God and man through the death of Christ resulting in reconciliation) sanctify you completely.
- Our part is to YIELD – to say yes daily- to the Lordship of Christ, thus putting sanctification into practice