

“I know I’m a Saint, but How Can I Be a Little Saintlier?”

Paul Before Agrippa: Part 5
Acts 26:13-23 and John 17:13-23
August 13, 2023

Acts 26:16. . . for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness . . .

18 to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.’

Salvation – It helps to see salvation in three phases:

1. Saved from the penalty of sin – *Justification*
2. Saved from the power of sin – *Progressive sanctification*
3. Saved from the presence of sin – *Glorification*

Sanctification – It helps to understand sanctification in three phases also, each corresponding to the three phases of salvation:

1. Positional Sanctification – *Once for all*
2. Progressive Sanctification – *Ongoing process*
3. Ultimate Sanctification – *When we see Jesus*

To sanctify means *to set apart* (to God, in the Biblical context). The following words share the same Greek, and Hebrew roots:

Sanctify	Gr <i>hagiazō</i>
Sanctification	Gr <i>hagiasmos</i>
Saint	Gr <i>hagios</i>
Holy	Gr <i>hagios</i>

Hebrew root for all = *qds* (“*qedash*”)

Positional Sanctification

Exodus 20:8 The sabbath day was set apart to God.

Exodus 31:13 Keeping the LORD’s commandments, specifically the sabbath in this verse, is how the LORD’s people would be sanctified.

1 Corinthians 1:2 We are sanctified as part of our identity in Christ Jesus, and because of this, we are called saints. sanctified (*hagiazō*) saints (*hagios*)

see also – **1 Corinthians 1:30,31**, and **1 Corinthians 6:11**

Ultimate Sanctification

Ephesians 5:25 The Church, the bride of Christ, will one day be presented to Him holy (*hagios*) and blameless.

Progressive Sanctification

John 17:13-23

Jesus gave us God’s Word → God’s Word sanctifies us/sets us apart unto God → Jesus doesn’t want us to leave the world, but to be in it, not of it → We can expect the world to hate us because it hated Him, because neither of us is from the world → Our unity, with the Godhead and with each other, is our testimony → so that the world may know and believe that God sent Jesus → herein lies the joy of Jesus made full in us.

Believers show the world unity primarily through our churches, and our families.

If we are “set apart” from the world in truth, and the Word is truth, what are we doing personally to put God’s Word into our hearts?

John 8:28-36 Those who “believed” in verse 30 are saved; those who abide in His word are disciples. A disciple is a learner, a pupil. Not every disciple is a believer, and not every believer is a disciple. A believer who stops learning stops being a disciple, but he or she does not stop being a saint.

In verse 33, the unbelievers start asking Him questions again, and the remainder of the chapter is His dialogue with them.

Abiding in truth sanctifies you; frees you from the slavery to sin; it defines you as a disciple; it takes time, and it is not automatic. *This is progressive sanctification.*