

Jesus is Praying—for Our Sanctification

The John 17 Project (Pt. 10)

November 27, 2022

John 17:17, 19 *“Sanctify them in the truth. Thy Word is truth. ...19 And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.”*

INTRO ...a Unique Set of Words

“Sanctify” is the verb form (hagiazō -Gk) of the word ‘holy’ (hagios -Gk)

“Like the word ‘save’, ‘sanctify’ has a past tense, a present tense, and a future tense.” **David Powlison**, *How Does Sanctification Work?*, p. 13

“Sanctification” — a journey of transformation, growth, and change with a particular destination.

Numerous Words are Employed in John 17 that Help Us Understand this Concept of “Sanctification” Jesus is asking for ...the world (used 17 times) ...evil ...protection ...unity/oneness ...their joy

“Sanctification” is understood by both its “unto” and its “separation from”

“Sanctification” is understood to be part of a disciple’s JOY!”

John 17:13 *“...these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves.”*

Understanding What Jesus is Praying for—“Sanctify them”

(1) Sanctification is understood out of a reference to what is “HOLY”

... “Holy” already has an address! ...Holy is the destination of ‘hagios’

— Holy is about the nature of God.

— Sanctification is about our “being conformed to the image of God”

“The one concept, the central idea I kept meeting in Scripture, was the idea that God is holy. The word was foreign to me. I wasn’t sure what it meant. I made the question a matter of diligent and persistent search. Today I am still absorbed with the question of the holiness of God. I am convinced it is one of the most important ideas that a Christian can ever grapple with. It is basic to our whole understanding of God and of Christianity. ...How we understand the person and character of God the Father affects every aspect of our lives. It affects far more than what we normally call the ‘religious’ aspects of our lives. If God is the Creator of the entire universe, then it must follow that He is the Lord of the whole universe. No part of the world is outside of His lordship. That means that no part of my life must be outside of His lordship. His holy character has something to say about economics, politics, athletics, romance—everything with which we are involved.” **R.C. Sproul**, *The Holiness of God*, p. 12-14

(2) Sanctification has a SINGLE Destination

...ie, we are all headed to the same place!
We all share a single destination!

...this is hard to appreciate and apply in our age of Hyper-Individuality!

... **“Unique Holiness”** ...we are not to be “Uniform, Duplicates”! ...we all uniquely do ONE Thing—Reveal the Glory of the One True God!

— “male & female” ...“many parts, yet one body” (1Cor 12:20)

— **Whether you are an Artist, an Engineer, a musician, an athlete, a Gov’t Official, a dishwasher, an introvert or extrovert ...we are all doing ONE THING!!**

(3) Sanctification is Moving Away from Something

... “The World” serves as the great contrast in this prayer

John 17:14-16 *"I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world."*

... Is THAT how we see "the World"?

— My Anecdotal Observation:
Sanctification in the 60's-80's ...vs...
Sanctification in the 90's-2000's

... The concept of "Worldly" used to be a common terminology in Christendom

"Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord."—2Cor 6:17 ...The text which leads this page touches a subject of vast importance in religion. That subject is the great duty of separation from the world. ...The subject is one which demands the best attention of all who profess and call themselves Christians. ...The subject perhaps was never more important than it is at the present day. There is a widely spread desire to make things pleasant in religion, —to saw off the corners and edges of the cross, and to avoid, as far as possible, self-denial. On every side we hear professing Christians declaring loudly that we must not be 'narrow and exclusive' and that there is no harm in many things which the holiest saints of old thought bad for their souls. That we may go anywhere, and do anything, and all the while may be very good Christians. ...In a day like this I think it good to raise a warning voice, and invite attention to the teaching of God's Word. It is written in that Word, 'Come out, and be separate.'" **J.C. Ryle**, "The World", (from "Practical Religion", p. 284, published in 1878, England)

(4) Sanctification is Uniquely Connected to "the Truth" (v. 17 *"Sanctify them in the truth. Thy Word is truth."*)

... "The Truth" contains its own implied contrast!

Rom 1:22-25 *"Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things."*

²⁴ Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator..."

> By Contrast—Jesus Prays for the OPPOSITE of This Condition! ...Later Romans will reveal that This is a “Process” not an Instantaneous Switch!

Rom 12:1-2 *“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”*

“Daily Influence from the WORLD (to Conform!) is a reason for Daily Influence from the WORD!”

The Chaos Machine: The Inside Story of How Social Media Rewired Our Minds and Our World [Amazon’s Book

Description] Max Fisher tells the gripping and galling inside story of how Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and other social networks preyed on psychological frailties to create the algorithms that drive everyday users to extreme opinions and, increasingly, extreme actions. As Fisher demonstrates, the companies’ founding tenets, combined with a blinkered focus on maximizing engagement, have led to a destabilized world for everyone.

Today, as your feed follows you everywhere, telling you about everything you don’t need to know and can’t really process, your senses get tripped into overload. Your brain gets hijacked, and as [Tristan Harris](#) points out, tech companies are intentionally triggering the anger and outrage cycles in our brains to get us to consume more.” **Carey Nieuwhof**
(<https://careynieuwhof.com/why-im-changing-my-mind-about-technology/>)

...What ideas are you “open to” in the realm of religion? — accepting Truth WILL mean Rejecting Some Things that Are NOT Truth!

> **What Have You Rejected?**

Deut. 7:6 “For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.”

The Father is Answering Jesus Prayer in This Hour of Our Lives! ...Remember:

“Sanctification” — a journey of transformation, growth, and change with a particular destination.

...it’s a “Journey”—it’s a “Process not a Picture”

Thinking Biblically & Practically about Sanctification...

- Older Generations May Need to Hear Col 2 in seeking to apply Sanctification
- Younger Generations May Need to Hear Rom 12 in seeking to apply Sanctification
- All Generations Need to Embrace Sanctification!
- Sanctification means ‘separation’
- Sanctification means ‘contrast’
- Sanctification means ‘destination’ and ‘purpose’
- Sanctification means ‘unity’ and ‘similarity’
- Sanctification does not mean “uniformity”
- Sanctification does not mean “traditions” and “styles” and “generational preferences” or “culturally generated practices”
- Sanctification does not mean the church becomes an ‘acidic environment’ where it feels like the ‘most important thing’ going on here is controlling each other’s behavior!
- Sanctification is a “Joy Project”—Not a “Stay Within the Lines Project”!!

“The subject of sanctification is one which many, I fear, dislike exceedingly. Some even turn from it with scorn and disdain. The very last thing they would like is to be a ‘saint,’ or a ‘sanctified’ man. Yet the subject does not deserve to be treated in this way. It is not an enemy but a friend.” **J.C. Ryle**, *Holiness*, p. 18

- Sanctification shows up in Real Thinking, Real decisions, Real practices...
 - ...Sanctification is a Twitter Issue ...it is a Social Media Issue
 - ...Sanctification is a Sexual Issue
 - ...Sanctification is an Appearance Issue
 - ...Sanctification is a Priorities Issue (thus it is a time, money, pursuits issue)
 - ...Sanctification is an Attitude Issue (humility, servanthood, others oriented)