

Introduction

1. God has called the church to be a holy people ([1 Th. 4:7](#))
 - a. God calls through the gospel ([2 Th. 2:14](#))
 - b. God wills that the church be sanctified ([1 Th. 4:3](#))
2. Sanctify and consecrate definitions
 - a. The first usage of the Hebrew word *qadesh* (H6942), translated as “sanctified,” is in reference to the sabbath day ([Gen. 2:3](#))
 - i. This day became a day of rest for the nation of Israel (and only Israel) as it was a sign between them and God ([Ex. 20:8-11](#), [31:12-17](#))
 - ii. The sabbath day was set apart by God and so, “to sanctify” means to, “set apart”
 - b. Next, we find the same Hebrew word in [Ex. 13:2](#), this time translated as “consecrate” with reference to the firstborn
 - i. We understand what “mine” means
 - ii. The firstborn belonged to God and so, “to consecrate” means to “belong to God”
 - c. Sanctification, consecration, and holiness originates from God Himself ([Lev. 11:43-45](#))
3. Sanctification is the process of getting cleaned up [purified] morally
 - a. The Israelites had to get cleaned up physically before God came down on Mount Sinai ([Ex. 19:1-20](#))
 - b. The Holy Spirit works to bring about sanctification ([2 Th. 2:13](#); [1 Pt. 1:2](#))
 - c. The Holy Spirit works through the Word of God ([1 Pt. 1:22-23](#); [Jn. 17:17-19](#))

I. Getting the World Out

1. The world is described in the Bible as a wicked place ([1 Jn. 5:19](#))
 - a. It is full of temptation and lust and stands opposed to God ([1 Jn. 2:15-17](#))
 - b. It is a dark place which hates the light ([Jn. 3:19-20](#))
2. The church are those that have been called out of darkness ([1 Pt. 2:9](#))
 - a. Christians are the light of the world ([Mt. 5:14-16](#))

3. Sanctification requires that we cleanse our minds from the world’s way of thinking
 - a. We are what we think ([Pr. 23:7](#))
 - i. Thus, the heart must be guarded with all diligence ([Pr. 4:23](#))
 - b. We must interrupt worldly thinking by controlling the inlets to the mind ([Ps. 101:3](#); [Job 31:1](#); [Mk. 4:24](#); [Lk. 8:18](#); [1 Th. 5:22](#))
 - c. The Thessalonians needed to practice abstinence from fornication ([1 Th. 4:3-5](#))

II. Getting the Word In

1. It is not enough to get the world’s way of thinking out, we must also put in that which is good ([Lk. 11:24-26](#))
 - a. We must fill our minds with the Word of God ([Ps. 119:11](#), [15-16](#))
 - b. We must have a hunger and thirst for righteousness ([Mt. 5:6](#))
 - c. We must treasure God’s Word more than our necessary food ([Job 23:12](#))
2. God’s Word must be feasted on daily ([Ac. 17:11](#))
 - a. If we physically eat daily (and we do), how much more spiritual nourishment? ([Lk. 11:1-3](#); [Mt. 4:4](#); cf. [Dt. 8:3](#))
 - b. Give strict attention to reading and intense effort to study of the Scriptures ([1 Tim. 4:13](#); [2 Tim. 2:15](#))

Conclusion

1. Sanctification describes the process by which God cleans us up
 - a. He does so by getting the world out and the Word in which takes concerted effort on our part
 - b. Christians are set apart for God’s purpose
2. Holiness and thus sanctification are critical to whether or not we see God ([Heb. 12:14](#))
 - a. “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” ([1 Th. 5:23](#) NKJV)