



Assembly of Eloah

Sanctification

WHAT IS SANCTIFICATION AND HOW ARE WE SANCTIFIED?

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Introduction

Sanctification is something that is talked about a lot in Christian churches. What is sanctification? How are we sanctified? These are questions to which the answers are important as God's people are a sanctified people. I'm sure we all want to be considered one of God's sons or daughters.

Through this study we hope to bring clarity to the subject of sanctification and how it relates to those claiming to be followers of the Living God. The hope is that we will be thought-provoking and cause anyone reading this study to consider for themselves how sanctification is working in their lives.

Sanctification – What is it?

According to Strong's Hebrew Dictionary the Hebrew word for *sanctify* or *sanctified* is *qadash*. The word *qadash* means: to *be* (causatively *make, pronounce or observe as*) *clean* (ceremonially or morally).

If something is sanctified, then it is considered or deemed holy. The word *holy* in Hebrew is *qodesh* which comes from *qadash* and means: a *sacred* place or thing; rarely abstractly *sanctity*.

Sanctification is the setting aside of something for a holy or sacred purpose.

What Sanctifies?

What causes something to be sanctified? If we are sanctified, then we should understand how we came to be sanctified.

Exodus 29:42-43 ESV It shall be a regular burnt offering throughout your generations at the entrance of the tent of meeting before Y^ehovah (the LORD), where I will meet with you, to speak to you there. (43) There I will meet with the people of Israel, and it shall be sanctified by my glory.

Y^ehovah says that His glory can sanctify. What is His glory? These seem like simple questions but sometimes the terms we use can be deceiving and it's good for us to understand succinctly what words mean.

Glory is the Hebrew word *kabod* and means: properly *weight*; but only figuratively in a good sense, *splendor* or *copiousness*. The glory of Yah is His fullness and

splendor of His presence. Our God is an awesome power and He dwells in unapproachable light. No one has seen or can see Him.

1Titus 6:13-16 ESV I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, (14) to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, (15) which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, (16) who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

John 1:18 BBE No man has seen God at any time; the only Son, who is on the breast of the Father, he has made clear what God is.

Our God is an awesome God and His mere presence sanctifies. He does not dwell in the presence of evil.

Exodus 31:13 ESV "You are to speak to the people of Israel and say, 'Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I, Y^ehovah (the LORD), sanctify you.

Yah sanctifies His people and He created His holy times or Sabbaths as a sign between His people and Him so that we would understand the fact that it is HE that sanctifies and makes us holy! It wasn't a temporary sign but one that would last throughout our generations! Why do most so-called Christians not observe it? Let us remember what Peter was told.

Acts 10:15 ESV And the voice came to him again a second time, "What God has made clean, do not call common."

God set the Sabbath aside as holy time and man is not given ANY authority to call it common. We can't just decide to make it a regular day on which we do our business. If we are sanctified and considered holy, then we must conduct ourselves as such.

Nadab and Abihu serve as stark examples of what happens when man decides for himself how he will serve God.

Leviticus 10:1-3 ASV And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took each of them his censer, and put fire therein, and laid incense thereon, and offered strange fire before Jehovah, which he had not commanded them. (2) And there came forth fire from before Jehovah, and devoured them, and they died before Jehovah. (3) Then Moses said unto Aaron, This is it that Jehovah spake, saying, I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified. And Aaron held his peace.

After being warned about how they should approach Yah in a reverent manner, these two sons of Aaron paid the ultimate price for their irreverence of what God

calls holy. Our Father will not be patient forever with man's mocking of Him and His ways. The day of reckoning is coming soon.

2Peter 3:9-10 ESV The LORD is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. (10) But the day of the LORD will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

Those that refuse to keep the things holy that Yah calls holy will suffer the consequences and their blood will be on their head.

Leviticus 20:6-8 ESV "If a person turns to mediums and necromancers, whoring after them, I will set my face against that person and will cut him off from among his people. (7) Consecrate yourselves, therefore, and be holy, for I am Y^ehovah (the LORD) your God. (8) Keep my statutes and do them; I am Y^ehovah (the LORD) who sanctifies you.

God expects His people to be of become holy and keep His laws! We are to BE holy. This is an action. It is through action that we are holy. He commanded us to be holy as He sets us aside for a special purpose. We cannot be a holy people without obedience to His laws as we saw above in the case of Nadab and Abihu. Our Father defines what holy is, not us.

Leviticus 21:7-8 ESV They shall not marry a prostitute or a woman who has been defiled, neither shall they marry a woman divorced from her husband, for the priest is holy to his God. (8) You shall sanctify him, for he offers the bread of your God. He shall be holy to you, for I, Y^ehovah (the LORD), who sanctify you, am holy.

The priests were to be more holy in conduct than the laity. There were things they were allowed for the children of Israel that were not allowed for the priests. They were considered holy because Y^ehovah who sanctifies us is holy. As a representative of God, they carried His authority and were to be treated as such.

The high priest had an even more strict code by which he must conduct himself. The standards are raised the closer to the holy of holies one was allowed.

Leviticus 21:10-23 ESV "The priest who is chief among his brothers, on whose head the anointing oil is poured and who has been consecrated to wear the garments, shall not let the hair of his head hang loose nor tear his clothes. (11) He shall not go in to any dead bodies nor make himself unclean, even for his father or for his mother. (12) He shall not go out of the sanctuary, lest he profane the sanctuary of his God, for the consecration of the anointing oil of his God is on him: I am Y^ehovah (the LORD). (13) And he shall take a wife in her virginity. (14) A widow, or a divorced woman, or a woman who has been defiled, or a prostitute, these he shall not marry. But he shall take as his wife a virgin of his own people, (15) that he may not profane his offspring among his people, for I am Y^ehovah (the LORD) who sanctifies him." (16) And Y^ehovah (the LORD) spoke to Moses, saying, (17) "Speak to Aaron, saying, None of your offspring throughout their generations who has a blemish may approach to offer the bread of his God. (18) For no

one who has a blemish shall draw near, a man blind or lame, or one who has a mutilated face or a limb too long, (19) or a man who has an injured foot or an injured hand, (20) or a hunchback or a dwarf or a man with a defect in his sight or an itching disease or scabs or crushed testicles. (21) No man of the offspring of Aaron the priest who has a blemish shall come near to offer Y^ehovah (the LORD)'s food offerings; since he has a blemish, he shall not come near to offer the bread of his God. (22) He may eat the bread of his God, both of the most holy and of the holy things, (23) but he shall not go through the veil or approach the altar, because he has a blemish, that he may not profane my sanctuaries, for I am Y^ehovah (the LORD) who sanctifies them."

Leviticus 22:9 ESV They shall therefore keep my charge, lest they bear sin for it and die thereby when they profane it: I am Y^ehovah (the LORD) who sanctifies them.

Leviticus 22:15-16 ESV They shall not profane the holy things of the people of Israel, which they contribute to Y^ehovah (the LORD), (16) and so cause them to bear iniquity and guilt, by eating their holy things: for I am Y^ehovah (the LORD) who sanctifies them."

Imagine these criteria in today's politically correct climate!

Leviticus 22:32-33 ESV And you shall not profane my holy name, that I may be sanctified among the people of Israel. I am Y^ehovah (the LORD) who sanctifies you, (33) who brought you out of the land of Egypt to be your God: I am Y^ehovah (the LORD)."

God's people are called by His name.

Deuteronomy 28:10 ESV And all the peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of Y^ehovah (the LORD), and they shall be afraid of you.

Isaiah 43:5-7 ESV Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you. (6) I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, (7) everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Revelation 3:12 ESV The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.

We are warned not to profane His name. How would we do that? When we include ourselves as one of God's people and we conduct ourselves in an unholy manner we bring dishonor to His name. We become guilty of profaning Y^ehovah's name. The standard of conduct He expects of us is set forth in His law. If we ignore the law and refuse to use it as a standard for our conduct, then by what do we measure holiness?

When we act outside of His law, which is holy:

Romans 7:12 ESV So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

...we are profaning His name. The law is what defines holy. The law IS holy and we are to BE holy. We do this by aligning ourselves so we are in obedience to His laws. Why? Because it is He that makes us holy or sanctifies us.

Isaiah 29:22-24 ESV Therefore thus says Y^ehovah (the LORD), who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob: "Jacob shall no more be ashamed, no more shall his face grow pale. (23) For when he sees his children, the work of my hands, in his midst, they will sanctify my name; they will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob and will stand in awe of the God of Israel. (24) And those who go astray in spirit will come to understanding, and those who murmur will accept instruction."

God's people will sanctify His name! We will make His name holy among the nations! We will do this by our conduct and no longer will we be stiff-necked and disobedient! Those who go astray in spirit will come to understanding and accept instruction. Instruction in what? His LAW! This is our holy conduct that brings honor and sanctifies His name! Something this simple seems so far away for most of us.

There is a time coming when those who sanctify themselves to their idols will receive their reward. Man will then take heed to the law of Y^ehovah and keep His Sabbaths holy. We will then sanctify His name above all others!

Isaiah 66:15-24 ESV "For behold, Y^ehovah (the LORD) will come in fire, and his chariots like the whirlwind, to render his anger in fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. (16) For by fire will Y^ehovah (the LORD) enter into judgment, and by his sword, with all flesh; and those slain by Y^ehovah (the LORD) shall be many. (17) "Those who sanctify and purify themselves to go into the gardens, following one in the midst, eating pig's flesh and the abomination and mice, shall come to an end together, declares Y^ehovah (the LORD). (18) "For I know their works and their thoughts, and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and shall see my glory, (19) and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands far away, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory. And they shall declare my glory among the nations. (20) And they shall bring all your brothers from all the nations as an offering to Y^ehovah (the LORD), on horses and in chariots and in litters and on mules and on dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, says Y^ehovah (the LORD), just as the Israelites bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of Y^ehovah (the LORD). (21) And some of them also I will take for priests and for Levites, says Y^ehovah (the LORD). (22) "For as the new heavens and the new earth that I make shall remain before me, says Y^ehovah (the LORD), so shall your offspring and your name remain. (23) From new moon to new moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me, declares Y^ehovah (the LORD). (24) "And they shall go out and look on the dead bodies of the men who have rebelled against me. For their worm shall not die, their fire shall not be quenched, and they shall be an abhorrence to all flesh."

Through their disobedience Israel profaned the name of Yah. By their unholy actions, they brought shame on His name in the sight of the nations.

Ezekiel 20:6-13 ESV On that day I swore to them that I would bring them out of the land of Egypt into a land that I had searched out for them, a land flowing with milk and honey, the most glorious of all lands. (7) And I said to them, Cast away the detestable things your eyes feast on, every one of you, and do not defile yourselves with the idols of Egypt; I am Y^ehovah (the LORD) your God. (8) But they rebelled against me and were not willing to listen to me. None of them cast away the detestable things their eyes feasted on, nor did they forsake the idols of Egypt. "Then I said I would pour out my wrath upon them and spend my anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt. (9) But I acted for the sake of my name, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations among whom they lived, in whose sight I made myself known to them in bringing them out of the land of Egypt. (10) So I led them out of the land of Egypt and brought them into the wilderness. (11) I gave them my statutes and made known to them my rules, by which, if a person does them, he shall live. (12) Moreover, I gave them my Sabbaths, as a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am Y^ehovah (the LORD) who sanctifies them. (13) But the house of Israel rebelled against me in the wilderness. They did not walk in my statutes but rejected my rules, by which, if a person does them, he shall live; and my Sabbaths they greatly profaned. "Then I said I would pour out my wrath upon them in the wilderness, to make a full end of them.

We do this same thing today when we act in contradiction to His way. This is why hypocrisy is so vile. It brings dishonor on His name when we say one thing and do another. For whatever reason, when a man who claims to be a Christian man misbehaves, other men see it and blame God!

Matthew 23:27-28 ESV "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness. (28) So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

1Peter 2:1-9 ESV So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. (2) Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— (3) if indeed you have tasted that the LORD is good. (4) As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, (5) you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (6) For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." (7) So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," (8) and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. (9) But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

We've been set aside as a holy priesthood and our conduct should reflect that. Hypocrisy should not be found in the body of Christ. Our conduct should be worthy of the name Y^ehovah.

Sanctified in the Truth

John 17:1-26 ESV When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, (2) since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. (3) And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. (4) I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. (5) And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed. (6) "I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. (7) Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. (8) For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. (9) I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. (10) All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. (11) And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. (12) While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. (13) But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. (14) 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. (17) Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. (18) As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. (19) And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. (20) "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, (21) that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. (22) The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, (23) I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. (24) Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. (25) O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. (26) I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

The word of God is truth. His law is truth.

Psalms 119:142 ESV Your righteousness is righteous forever, and your law is true.

Psalms 119:160 ESV The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.

We are sanctified in truth. The truth is that we are required to obey the laws of our Creator and Father Y^ehovah. These laws are there for our benefit and bring happiness and peace to those that keep them.

Psalms 119:1-8 ESV **Aleph.** Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of Y^ehovah (the LORD)! (2) Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart, (3) who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways! (4) You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently. (5) Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes! (6) Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments. (7) I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous rules. (8) I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me!

Psalms 119:161-168 ESV **Sin and Shin.** Princes persecute me without cause, but my heart stands in awe of your words. (162) I rejoice at your word like one who finds great spoil. (163) I hate and abhor falsehood, but I love your law. (164) Seven times a day I praise you for your righteous rules. (165) Great peace have those who love your law; nothing can make them stumble. (166) I hope for your salvation, O Y^ehovah (LORD), and I do your commandments. (167) My soul keeps your testimonies; I love them exceedingly. (168) I keep your precepts and testimonies, for all my ways are before you.

The word Blessed in verse 1 is *ehsher* in Hebrew and it means happiness or as an exclamation it means how happy! This is the sense in verse 1. How happy is he whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of Y^ehovah!

Psalm 119 is a great testimony to the benefits of keeping Y^ehovah's law. We should all read it and absorb it. King David will be restored when God restores Israel and unites Judah and Joseph.

Ezekiel 37:15-28 ESV The word of Y^ehovah (the LORD) came to me: (16) "Son of man, take a stick and write on it, 'For Judah, and the people of Israel associated with him'; then take another stick and write on it, 'For Joseph (the stick of Ephraim) and all the house of Israel associated with him.'" (17) And join them one to another into one stick, that they may become one in your hand. (18) And when your people say to you, 'Will you not tell us what you mean by these?' (19) say to them, Thus says Y^ehovah (the LORD) GOD: Behold, I am about to take the stick of Joseph (that is in the hand of Ephraim) and the tribes of Israel associated with him. And I will join with it the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, that they may be one in my hand. (20) When the sticks on which you write are in your hand before their eyes, (21) then say to them, Thus says Y^ehovah (the LORD) GOD: Behold, I will take the people of Israel from the nations among which they have gone, and will gather them from all around, and bring them to their own land. (22) And I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. And one king shall be king over them all, and they shall be no longer two nations, and no longer divided into two kingdoms. (23) They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols and their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions. But I will save them from all the backslidings in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them; and they shall be my people, and I will be their God. (24) "My

servant David shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd. They shall walk in my rules and be careful to obey my statutes. (25) They shall dwell in the land that I gave to my servant Jacob, where your fathers lived. They and their children and their children's children shall dwell there forever, and David my servant shall be their prince forever. (26) I will make a covenant of peace with them. It shall be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will set them in their land and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in their midst forevermore. (27) My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (28) Then the nations will know that I am Y^ehovah (the LORD) who sanctifies Israel, when my sanctuary is in their midst forevermore."

Ephesians 5:24-27 ESV Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. (25) Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, (26) that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, (27) so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

The church is sanctified by the washing of the word of truth.

Sanctified in Faith in Jesus

Acts 26:15-18 ESV And I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And the LORD said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. (16) But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, (17) delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you (18) to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

Our faith that Christ was the Messiah and the Son of God is a sanctifying edifice. It is associated to the word of God as it is truth. We believe or have faith that the prophecies regarding the Messiah were true and that Jesus was the fulfillment of those prophecies. Much like Abraham believed and it was attributed to him as righteousness. We believe and are sanctified or considered holy.

Romans 6:15-19 ESV What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! (16) Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? (17) But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, (18) and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (19) I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

Lawlessness and sin separate us from God.

Isaiah 59:1-2 ESV Behold, Y^ehovah's (the LORD's) hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; (2) but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.

But by becoming obedient slaves to righteousness we are sanctified. Obedience leads to righteousness and righteousness leads to sanctification. It's what the word of the One True God says! How can anyone say we don't have to keep the laws of God?!

Romans 15:14-21 ESV I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another. (15) But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God (16) to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. (17) In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. (18) For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, (19) by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ; (20) and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, (21) but as it is written, "Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand."

The gentiles are brought into the sanctification in Jesus through Paul who worked to bring the gentiles to obedience. Obedience and sanctification are inseparable parts of righteousness.

1Corinthians 1:22-31 ESV For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, (23) but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, (24) but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. (25) For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. (26) For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. (27) But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; (28) God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, (29) so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. (30) And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, (31) so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the LORD."

Christ became sanctification to us through his sacrifice and we boast not in our own works but in His saving of our lives by calling us back to the obedience which leads to righteousness.

1Corinthians 6:9-11 ESV Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, (10) nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. (11) And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the LORD Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Hebrews 2:9-18 ESV But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. (10) For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. (11) For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, (12) saying, "I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise." (13) And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Behold, I and the children God has given me." (14) Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, (15) and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. (16) For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. (17) Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. (18) For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

We are sanctified in Christ but we and Christ have the same source of sanctification which is the Father and we are ALL sanctified in His word which is truth. His law is His word and it is truth.

Hebrews 10:12-18 ESV But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, (13) waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. (14) For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. (15) And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, (16) "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds," (17) then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." (18) Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

We are perfected for all time by the sacrifice of Christ. The laws of Y^ehovah will be written on our hearts and because of Jesus' selfless sacrifice our sins will not be remembered. What an unbelievable blessing!

Sanctification of Family

It's important for all of us to understand an aspect of sanctification that displays the mercy of Yah. Paul discusses the fact that our immediate family members may be

sanctified by our righteous behavior. Our relationship with our Father does sanctify our spouses and our children.

1Corinthians 7:10-17 ESV To the married I give this charge (not I, but the LORD): the wife should not separate from her husband (11) (but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband should not divorce his wife. (12) To the rest I say (I, not the LORD) that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her. (13) If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, she should not divorce him. (14) For the unbelieving husband is made holy because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy because of her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. (15) But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace. (16) For how do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife? (17) Only let each person lead the life that the LORD has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches.

As loving wives, husbands and parents we should bear this in mind as we contemplate our spiritual condition. Are we doing what is right in the eyes of our Father? Are we doing the things that lead to sanctification? Are we providing the example to our families? We need to think about that and pray always that Yah will have mercy on our families and open their eyes to the truth.

Conclusion

Brethren, we have been given the greatest gift of all. We are called to repentance from our disobedience back to obedience which leads to righteousness which leads to sanctification. This calling is one that is not to be taken lightly as we have been told:

Luke 9:62 ESV Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Upon repentance, baptism and receipt of the holy spirit God writes His laws on our hearts and they become part of us. They become ingrained in our character. Much like the athletes muscles are trained to react naturally to particular condition we become highly trained in our character.

1Corinthians 9:24-27 ESV Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. (25) Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. (26) So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. (27) But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

We must keep conditioning ourselves and becoming stronger in the faith lest we be disqualified. Remember above all brethren, the words of Paul to the Thessalonians.

2Thessalonians 2:13-17 ESV But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the LORD, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. (14) To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. (15) So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter. (16) Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, (17) comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

Amen Y^ehovah