

RCF USA - Foundational Doctrines

Sanctification & Holiness



What do I need to know about the Topic?

Sanctification comes from the Greek word *hagiasmos*, which means “to be set apart from sin” and “consecrated unto God.” It is God’s work of making His people holy, shaping their character to reflect His purity and perfection.

Scripture teaches that sanctification is both a state and a calling. Believers are sanctified at the moment of salvation, set apart once and for all by the blood of Christ (Acts 20:32; Hebrews 10:10). At the same time, believers are called to continue growing in holiness, daily yielding to the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:16; 1 Peter 1:2).

Perfection in this context does not mean sinless flawlessness, but spiritual maturity—a life shaped by obedience, victory over sin, and increasing Christlikeness. As 1 Peter 1:15 reminds us, “Be holy, for I am holy.” Jesus set the ultimate example, leaving a pattern of holiness and obedience for us to follow (1 Peter 2:21-22).

Sanctification involves separation from sin, consecration to God, and conformation to Christ. This process is impossible through human effort alone; only the Holy Spirit empowers believers to overcome temptation and live a life of true holiness (1 Corinthians 10:13).

For students and young believers, sanctification is vital. In a world filled with distractions and pressures, a sanctified life sets them apart as witnesses of God’s power and grace. It strengthens their resolve to resist sin, live righteously, and reflect Christ’s character in every area of life.

What is the Big Idea?



The goal of this lesson is to help believers understand sanctification as God’s work of setting His people apart and shaping them into Christ’s image.

At the end of the lesson, everyone should:

- Recognize sanctification as both a present state in Christ and an ongoing journey of growth in holiness.
- Understand that true holiness is empowered by the Holy Spirit, not by human effort alone.
- Appreciate the role of sanctification in shaping character, obedience, and witness.
- Commit to daily yielding to God’s Spirit and pursuing Christlikeness



Discussing the Passage: 1 Peter 1:15-16

Be holy, for I am holy.” This passage reminds believers that sanctification is a call to reflect God’s character, separating ourselves from sin and dedicating our lives to His service.



Exploring the Passage

- What is sanctification? God’s work of making believers holy and Christlike (1 Peter 1:15-16; Romans 15:16).
- Why is it important? It equips believers to live in obedience, resist sin, and reflect God’s character (1 Corinthians 10:13; 1 Peter 2:21-22).
- What does it do for us? Guides daily conduct, strengthens faith, and empowers holy living (Hebrews 10:10; Acts 20:32).

Assignment

Reflect on one area of your life where the Holy Spirit is calling you to greater holiness. Write down practical steps you can take and support each with a scripture verse.

Advanced Application Questions

- How does understanding sanctification change the way you approach daily decisions and challenges?
- What habits or practices can you develop to cooperate with the Spirit in growing Christlike?