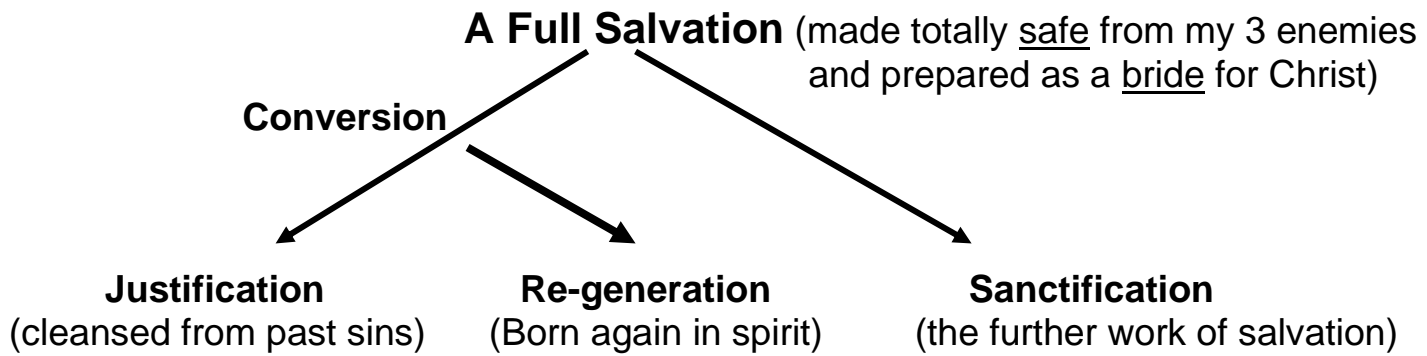


The need and blessing of sanctification, to be fully saved – A B Simpson



Excerpts from the book “The Fourfold Gospel” by A B Simpson – The founder of the Christian and Missionary Alliance group of Churches – Section 2 – “Christ our Sanctifier”

The danger of not being sanctified: “Sanctification is not conversion. Sanctification is not regeneration. Regeneration is the beginning. Regeneration is like building a house, sanctification is having the owner come and dwell in it and fill it with gladness and life and beauty. Many Christians are converted and stop there. They do not go on to the fullness of their life in Christ, and so they are in danger of losing what they already possess. You have doubtless noticed young Christians, who have seemed to be marvelously converted and full of the love of God, but they have not entered into the deeper life of Christ, and in an evil hour they failed. They had gained a new heart but they had neglected to get the deeper teaching and life which Christ has for all His children.

The meaning of Sanctification: “What does the term sanctify mean? It means to separate. God separated the family of Seth from the worldly race of Cain. He separated Noah and his family from the ungodly world. He separated Abraham and his seed from an idolatrous family. The very meaning of the word “Church” is called out or separated.

2 Cor 6:17-7:1 Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters", says the LORD Almighty. Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness (sanctification) in the fear of God.

Separated from what? “Separated from sin. This carries with it the idea of cleansing, of crucifying, of putting off. It is the renunciation of all evil. We are to reckon ourselves dead indeed unto sin (Rom. 6:11) just as much as though we were no longer the same person. This is the first decisive step in sanctification, an act of will by which we renounce evil in every form in which it is made manifest to our consciences and the whole evil self and sinful nature from which each separate act has sprung. We separate ourselves also from the world and its embodiment of the old natural condition of things and the kingdom of the prince of evil. We recognize ourselves as not of the world as He was not of the world.

Separated to what? “It is not only a separation from but a separation to. The radical idea of the word is, set apart to be the property of another. It means dedication in which we offer ourselves to God for his absolute ownership, that He may possess us as His peculiar people, prepare us for His purpose and work out in us all His Holy and perfect will. Beloved have you made this full surrender? If so, how gladly your whole being says amen to the blessedness of being only the Lord’s. A sanctified Christian is wholly yielded to God to please Him in every particular, his first thought is always “Your will be done”. This is the thought expressed by the word “consecration”. Dear friends God expects something more of us than simply to be separated from sin. This is only negative goodness. He expects that we shall be wholly dedicated to Him, having it the supreme wish of our heart to love and honor and please Him. Are we fulfilling His expectations?

It is being conformed to God, His will and His love: “Sanctification includes conformity to the likeness of God. We are to be in His image and stamped with the impress of Jesus Christ. Sanctification also means conformity to the will of God. The sanctified Christian is submissive and obedient. He desires the divine will above everything else in life, as kinder and wiser for him than anything else can be. He is conscious that he misses something if he misses it. Sanctification means love, supreme love to God and all mankind. It is the spring of all obedience, the fountain from which all right things flow.

Rom 8:29 ...**Predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son...** NIV
2 Cor 3:18 ...**The Lord, being transformed into the same likeness, from one revealed word of God (glory) to another revealed word (glory)...by the Holy Spirit.**
Col 3:10 ...**Put on the new man (your spirit) who is renewed in revealed knowledge of the word of God, after the likeness of Him (God) who created him,**

Sanctified how? Christ in me and me in Christ: “The heart and soul of the whole matter is seeing Jesus, Himself, as our sanctification (*and knowing Him not after the flesh but after the spirit – 2 Cor. 5:16*). Sanctification is the living God come to live in the new heart. It is the Holy Spirit dwelling in the heart (*and me dwelling in the Holy Spirit by a submitted will*) so that every movement, every thought, every intention, every desire of our whole being will be prompted by the springing life of God within. It is God manifest in the flesh again. This is the only true consummation of sanctification. Thus only can man enter completely into the life of holiness. As the Holy Spirit thus possesses us we are made partakers of the divine nature (*through the engrafting of His living words day by day into our hearts*). Do you know what it is to have Christ thus sanctified to you, beloved? It’s the “Christ life”.

Practical directions on sanctification – Four steps: “(1) We must have a divine revelation of our own need for sanctification and the unchangeable evil of our own human nature, before we will seek to obtain it. Some cling to a little of their *perceived natural* goodness and therefore meet with failure. (2) We must see Jesus as our sanctifier. (3) We must make an entire surrender to Him in everything. We must give ourselves to Him thoroughly, definitely and unconditionally and have it engrafted in the heart “I am dead; my own life is surrendered and buried out of sight” (4) We must believe that He receives the consecration we make. He is as earnest, as willing and as real about it as you are.

“I am certain dear friends when you have taken these four steps you can never be as you were before. Something has been done which can never be undone. You have become the Lord’s. The moment we are consecrated to Jesus Christ we learn the secret that He is to be all-in-all to us. We must learn to lean on Him to take Him for our every need. The principle is perfect, it becomes absolutely unfailing in practice. Remember the secret is **“Without me you can do nothing” “I can do all things in Christ who strengthens me”**

- God longs for me to take Jesus Christ (by His word and His Spirit) as my Sanctifier
1 Co 1:30 **...Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us...sanctification...**
Jo 17:17 (Jesus to the Father) **Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth**
2 Th 2:13 **Salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief of the truth**

- Sanctification means holiness – Christ making me holy, He living in me and I in Him
1 Co 1:2 AMP **To those consecrated and purified and made holy in Christ Jesus**
Heb 12:14 **...Holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:**

- His sanctified holy ones are His saints. Christ is coming back for and with His saints
2 Th 1:10 **When He (Jesus) comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints...**
1 Th 3:13 **...At the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.**

- Because He is coming back for His bride – the true Church that He has sanctified
Eph 5:25-27 **...Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her, So that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the Word, That He might present the church to Himself in glorious splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such things that she might be holy and faultless.** AMP

- The bride, must have on a wedding garment to attend the Lamb’s marriage supper
Matt 22:2-13 **The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son...But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment...Then the king said to the servants, “Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness...”**

- And the wedding garment is righteousness, those without sin, who are sanctified
Rev 19:7-8 **...The marriage of the Lamb has come, and His bride has prepared herself. She has been permitted to dress in fine linen, dazzling and white, for the fine linen is the righteousness (the upright, just, and godly living, deeds, and conduct, and right standing with God) of the saints (the people who have allowed Him to make them holy).AMP**

Have you taken Jesus as your sanctifier, are you fully saved, wearing a wedding garment?