



# The Will of God— Holiness

Part 1



# Introduction

- Read 1 Thessalonians 4:3. **What is your first thought when you hear the word *sanctification*?**
- Read Hebrews 12:14. **Why is it so important that we pursue sanctification?** (See also 1 Thessalonians 4:3.)
- In today's study, we will define and describe holiness, and then apply the principles we learn to specific situations (modesty, dancing, lust, etc.) in the class tomorrow.



# Definition

- *sanctification* (Gr *hagiosmos*): “the process or effect of consecration or purification; holiness, not profanity”

**What do you think of when you hear the words “consecration” and “purification”?**

(The word *profane* [Gr *bebelos*] means “common, secular, unspiritual, worldly,” see 1 Timothy 1:9; Hebrews 12:16.)

- Read Romans 6:19; 1 Thessalonians 4:3, 5, 7; Ephesians 5:3. **What are the opposites of sanctification?**



# Definition

- Read 1 Peter 1:15-16. **What (or who) is the true standard of holiness? Where can we learn about this standard?**
- Since sanctification is a process and an effect measured by God Himself, it is vital that we understand and apply ourselves to recognizing both concepts.



# Process and Effect

- **Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. What happens at the same time as our initial sanctification? At what point, then, does God begin to sanctify us? (See 1 Peter 1:22; Acts 22:16.)**
- **Read 2 Corinthians 7:1. Are all temptations removed when we are initially sanctified? What, therefore, must we do? (To acknowledge our part in sanctification does not deny the necessity of God's continued work, see Philippians 2:12-13; 1 Thessalonians 5:23.)**



# Process and Effect

- Read James 1:21-27, Psalm 119:9, 2 Corinthians 6:17, and 1 Peter 1:13-16. **What is involved in “perfecting holiness” within us?**
- Read 2 Corinthians 7:1 and 1 Thessalonians 5:23. **Is sanctification internal or external or both? Explain.** (See Matthew 23:23-28.)  
(Purity is not merely avoiding “crossing the line” but drawing as close to God as possible.)



# Process and Effect

- Read Ephesians 1:4, 1 Peter 2:9, and Titus 2:11-14. **Why does God want to sanctify us?**





# Motivation

- **Why should we deny worldly pleasures and pursue sanctification?**
  - divine requirement – 1 Corinthians 6:17; see also 7:1; 1 Peter 1:14-16; Deuteronomy 10:12-13  
(“God loathes evil and diabolic forces that would pull people down to a godless eternity just as a mother hates a venomous spider that is found playing on the soft, warm flesh of her little baby,” Graham.)



# Motivation

- **Why should we deny worldly pleasures and pursue sanctification?**
  - divine requirement – 1 Corinthians 6:17; see also 7:1; 1 Peter 1:14-16; Deuteronomy 10:12-13
  - divine relationship – 1 Corinthians 6:16, 18; 1 John 3:1-3
  - divine rewards – Hebrews 12:14; 2 Peter 1:4; 3:11-14.



# Motivation

- Whatever we may “lose” in this lifetime (e.g. popularity, power, possessions) is nothing compared to what we will gain by pursuing holiness – see Matthew 16:24-26.



