

Introduction

1. The theme for the month of January is “Sanctification.”
2. *Sanctify*, *sanctified*, and *sanctification* are all Biblical terms which require Biblical definitions.
 - a. The Bible is its own best dictionary ([2 Pt. 1:3](#); cf. [2 Tim. 3:16-17](#)).
 - b. The sum of these terms are found 269 times in 122 verses in the Bible.
3. The purpose of this sermon is to use the Bible to define these terms for us so we can dig deeper into this concept in the future.

I. Sanctification in Genesis

1. The Bible is divided into two covenants which are the Old and the New.
 - a. Often these are called *Testaments*, which is a Latin derived word meaning covenant.
 - b. An examination of the concept of sanctification naturally begins with the Old Covenant.
2. The first usage of the term sanctified is found in [Genesis 2:3](#).
 - a. God created the material world in six, twenty-four-hour days ([Gen. 1:1-2:1](#)).
 - b. On the seventh day, God was finished with material creation and also created the unit of time known as the week ([Gen. 2:2](#)).
 - c. God sanctified the seventh day of the week because it was the day in which He rested (ceased) from all His work ([Gen. 2:3](#); cf. [Heb. 4:10](#)).
3. No further use of sanctification terms are found in Genesis.
 - a. So, we still do not know what sanctification is.

II. Sanctification in Exodus

1. By the time we reach the second book of the Bible, Exodus, we find a basic definition for sanctify by using comparison.
 - a. “**Sanctify** unto me all the firstborn, whatsoever openeth the womb among the children of Israel, *both* of man and of beast: it *is* mine” ([Ex. 13:2](#) emphasis added).
 - b. “That thou shalt **set apart** unto the LORD all that openeth the matrix, and every firstling that cometh of a beast which thou hast; the males *shall be* the LORD’s ([Ex. 13:12](#) emphasis added).
 - c. Comparing [Exodus 13:2](#) with [Exodus 13:12](#) reveals that sanctify means to set apart.
 - d. More than that, it means to set apart for the LORD’s use thus to belong to God.
2. This basic definition of sanctify helps us with what God said in [Genesis 2:3](#) regarding the seventh day of the week.
 - a. The seventh day of the week became the sabbath day for the Israelites ([Ex. 20:8-11](#); [Dt. 5:12](#)).
 - b. The sabbath day was as a sign between God and the Israelites ([Ex. 31:13-17](#)).

3. Before God came down on Mount Sinai, we see that the people had to be sanctified ([Ex. 19:10-11](#)).
 - a. Their clothes had to be washed or purified ([Ex. 19:10](#)).
 - b. Boundaries were to be set up around the mountain to prevent death ([Ex. 19:12-13](#)).
 - c. Abstinence from otherwise lawful sexual relations was mandated ([Ex. 19:15](#); cf. [Lev. 15:16-33](#)).
 - d. The priests had to be sanctified or God would break forth upon them ([Ex. 19:22](#)).
4. The priests, the tabernacle, and the tabernacle items were to be sanctified.
 - a. Proper clothing was required for the priests ([Ex. 28](#) especially [Ex. 28:41-43](#)).
 - b. The sanctification of the priests required sacrifice ([Ex. 29:1-35](#)).
 - c. The altar was to be sanctified ([Ex. 29:36-37](#)).
 - d. The tabernacle and associated items were sanctified ([Ex. 29:43-46](#), [30:22-29](#); cf. [Ex. 40:9-11](#)).

III. Sanctification in Leviticus

1. The children of Israel had food restrictions as part of their sanctification from other nations ([Lev. 11](#)).
 - a. The relationship of sanctification and holiness is very clear here ([Lev. 11:44-45](#); cf. [1 Pt. 1:15-16](#)).
 - b. Another definition for sanctification is seen in [Leviticus 11:46-47](#).
2. The children of Israel were given God's Law to abide by thus making them sanctified ([Lev. 20](#); cf. [Lev. 20:7-8](#), [26](#)).
 - a. It was a fiery Law ([Dt. 33:2](#)).
 - b. This helps us with a definition for sanctification which describes the process or means by which one is set apart for service to God.

Conclusion

1. The first three books of the Old Covenant provide for us working definitions of the terms sanctify, sanctified, and sanctification.
 - a. To **sanctify** is to set apart for the service of God.
 - b. Some thing or someone who is **sanctified** has been set apart for service of or to God.
 - c. **Sanctification** describes the process or means by which one is set apart for service to God.
2. As we continue our examination of sanctification this month we will look at:
 - a. Some things necessary for sanctification.
 - b. The Holy Spirit's role in sanctification.
 - c. The fruits of sanctification.
 - d. A sanctified people.