

## What Jesus Prays for His Disciples Part IV John 17:14

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 pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. 18 As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

We have come to verse 17, Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

Though it is a very short verse, it is not short on importance. It goes along with what we were talking about last week. Jesus prayed that the Father would keep them from the evil one. i.e. to keep them holy. And now He says it again only a different way.

- I. Sanctification is Old Testament principle.
  - A. As with almost all New Testament teachings this one has its roots in the OT.
    1. In Lev. Chapter 12 there is an entire chapter that describes the sanctification of the priests. With a list of all the things they can and cannot do.
    2. In Jeremiah he is told how the Lord sanctified him from his birth. Jer 1:5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."
    3. Probably the first reference to the idea of sanctification is in Genesis where God calls Abram out from among his own people to be a special people for the Lord.
  - B. The idea of sanctification is that of separation from the world or secular things to be used only for the Lord's purpose.
    1. Therefore pots and pans were sanctified.
    2. Animals chosen for sacrifice were sanctified.
    3. God's whole nation of Israel were sanctified.
- II. The word
  - A. **NT:37** ἁγιάζω **hagiazō (hag-ee-ad'-zo); from NT:40; to make holy, i.e. (ceremonially) purify or consecrate; (mentally) to venerate: Strong's**
  - B. **It is similar to the word translated "saint" in the NT**
    1. NT:40 ἅγιος **hagios (hag'-ee-os); from hagos (an awful thing) [compare**

NT:53, NT:2282]; sacred (physically, pure, morally blameless or religious, ceremonially, consecrated):

2. The word means holy one, which Paul calls all the congregation at Corinth.
  3. 1Co 1:2 (NKJV) To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:
- C. So going right along with last weeks message, God's is working to make us holy like He is holy.
1. Th 5:23 (NKJV) Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
  2. 1Co 6: 9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.
- D. The primary work of sanctification takes place at our regeneration through faith in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
1. Heb 10:10 (NKJV) By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.
  2. Heb 10:14 (NKJV) For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.
  3. Heb 13:12 (NKJV) Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate.
  4. 1Th 5:23 (NKJV) Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- III. Sanctify them through your truth.
- A. There is such a thing as truth.
  - B. It is what sanctifies us.
    1. Jn 8:32 (NKJV) And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."
  - C. Once again this is an OT concept
    1. Psalms 19:7-9 The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; The

testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; 8 The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; 9 The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. NKJV

2. Psalms 119:9 How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. NKJV
3. Psalms 119:11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You. NKJV
4. Psalms 119:104 Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way. NKJV

D. But it is in the NT that this is clearly taught.

1. John 15:3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. NKJV
2. Eph 5:26 (NKJV) that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,
3. 2 Thessalonians 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, NKJV
4. James 1:21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. NKJV
5. 1 Peter 1:22-23 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, 23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, NKJV

Now Jesus prayer to the Father will one day be completed. When we pass from this life we will be like Jesus for we will see Him.

Let us give space in our daily lives to spend time in the word and then study it that it might spend some time in you.

The work is not done until what the word truly means is lived out in our lives.