

Sanctified

Carl H. Stevens Jr. is pastor of Greater Grace World Outreach located in Baltimore, Maryland. Pastor Stevens is also chancellor of Maryland Bible College & Seminary and host of the international Christian radio program "The Grace Hour." This booklet was created from messages preached by Pastor Stevens.

Pastor Stevens can be seen weekly on cable television stations throughout the United States. Call us for information regarding programming in your area.

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

“Sanctify” means to set apart, to make holy. When a person, place, or thing is sanctified, it becomes completely dedicated to God, for His purpose alone. God takes what is His and makes it holy.

What God has sanctified, we are to sanctify. We grow as we learn to set apart our lives to God. By praying as we begin the day or saying grace before we eat, whatever the task, no matter how insignificant, those are opportunities to sanctify details to God for His keeping.

Our sanctified faith pleases God. When we come to Him and believe that He is, He is greatly honored by our faith. Without faith, we cannot please Him (Hebrews 11:6).

This booklet will show that when we sanctify our lives by believing God utterly and trusting Him thoroughly, our faith will become great faith (Matthew 15:28) and rich faith (James 2:5).

Chapter One
THINGS SET APART

“And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD’S: it is holy unto the LORD” (Leviticus 27:30).

“For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches” (Romans 11:16).

“Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures” (James 1:18).

“But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it” (Genesis 2:17a).

Throughout the Bible we find that first things belong to God. Of all the trees in the Garden of Eden, God set apart one unto Himself. It was called the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, and God told Adam, “That one is Mine. You can eat of the others, but that one is Mine.”

In Genesis 3:6, when Eve partook of the fruit

from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, she took from God what He had sanctified only for Himself, which was to know divine good and to know evil from the standpoint of His holiness.

Lucifer had already rebelled against the throne of God through pride, and one third of the angels fell with him. God knew the devil and the demons of hell, and He knew the potential for evil to infect His creation. Therefore, to protect man from becoming self-conscious (knowing all the problems that would cause) God forbade Adam to partake of that tree. But Eve took that which was sanctified only unto God.

Adam and Eve were never in a mother's womb. Think of that! They were the first couple. They were sanctified in sinless perfection, set apart—*holy*. They belonged to God.

When they sold out to Satan and sin came into the human race, God did the best thing He could do. According to the plan of the Trinity in eternity past, the Father sent His Son to redeem mankind. He died for us on the Cross, shed His blood, took our sins upon Himself and imputes His righteousness to whoever will receive Him. Today, the Holy Spirit moves through sanctified men and women who proclaim the Gospel. He

convicts hearts of the truth, of the Finished Work judgment, of God's righteousness, and of the need to be born again.

No Room for Compromise

"And when they came to Nachon's threshingfloor, Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook it.

"And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of God" (2 Samuel 6:6-7)

The Ark of God was holy. It was covered by the Mercy Seat (where the blood had been sprinkled) and contained the tables of the Ten Commandments, Aaron's rod that budded, and the pot of manna from the wilderness. The ark was supposed be carried on the shoulders of the Kohathites (see Numbers 4:15), but King David put the Ark on a cart, and that was a terrible mistake.

The oxen pulled the cart along, but they stumbled and it looked as though the cart would tip over. Uzzah reached out to steady the Ark with his hand and he was killed instantly. That man touched what was holy to God; he did not sanctify what was holy to God.

The Ark belonged to God—it was sanctified to Him. Uzzah touched it and died because he touched what belonged to God. Dishonoring what God has sanctified results in measures of spiritual death.

First Things

“That thou shalt take of the first of all the fruit of the earth, which thou shalt bring of thy land that the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt put it in a basket, and shalt go unto the place which the LORD thy God shall choose to place his name there” (Deuteronomy 26:2).

“And to bring the firstfruits of our ground, and the firstfruits of all fruit of all trees, year by year, unto the house of the LORD:

“Also the firstborn of our sons, and of our cattle, as it is written in the law, and the firstlings of our herds and of our flocks, to bring to the house of our God, unto the priests that minister in the house of our God:

“And that we should bring the firstfruits of our dough, and our offerings, and the fruit of all manner of trees, of wine and of oil, unto the priests, to the chambers of the house of our God; and the tithes of our ground unto the Levites, that the same Levites might have the tithes in all

the cities of our tillage" (Nehemiah 10:35-37).

Year by year, the children of Israel would bring offerings of the fruit of the trees, the fruit of the land, and the first of the flocks to God. The first of the wine, the oil, and the dough was brought to the priests. These things belonged to God. It wasn't a matter of giving God something. It was already His property, and this is what He required to be done with it. Every single thing offered became holy to God. God set it apart. It was His. It belonged to Him, because the first goes to God.

Honoring God's Word

The city of Jericho belonged to God. Everything about it was to be destroyed and burned with fire. Only Rahab the harlot, who hid Israel's spies before the attack on the city, and her family were to be spared. The gold, silver, and iron were to be brought into the treasury of the Lord; everything else was cursed (Joshua 6:18-19).

God intervened to bring the destruction of Jericho. Israel marched around every day for six days. They marched around the city seven times on the seventh day, and the walls fell and God gave the victory. Jericho was set apart for Him.

"Jericho is Mine," God said. "You do just as I

say. It is a first place, and it is Mine. You can have Canaan, but this first city and everything in it is Mine.”

Not everyone heeded this word. Achan took for himself a Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold. He and his family were stoned to death, and all their possessions and remains were burned as a result. Achan took what was God’s.

The Word of God was inspired by God Almighty in its entirety (2 Timothy 3:16). God set it apart. “The Bible is *My* book,” God declares to us. “It is Mine. Don’t add to it. Don’t diminish it. (Deuteronomy 4:2). Lay it up in your hearts and in your mind (Deuteronomy 11:17).”

We are to live by every word, using rebound when we fail (Matthew 4:4). If any man adds or takes away from the Word of God, God will add unto him the plagues mentioned in it (see Revelation 22:18-19).

All sixty-six books of the Bible are God’s holy Word. We are not to privately interpret the Bible (2 Peter 1:19-20). We don’t dishonor God’s Word, we don’t mock God’s Word, we don’t say anything against God’s Word. It is sanctified. It is holy.

When we give thanks in everything (Eph-

esians 5:20), we make praise holy. When the Word of God dwells richly in our hearts and we speak psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs, and sing with grace in our hearts, then our inner life is holy. Then we do everything, in word and in deed, to glorify God, which makes our behavior holy.

Chapter Two

THE FIRSTFRUITS
BELONG TO GOD

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

“As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

“And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth” (John 17:17-19).

“But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

“For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

“But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming” (1 Corinthians 15:20-23).

The Bible says in Exodus 36:23 that God’s name is sanctified. In John 17:19, Jesus sanctified

Himself for us. In 1 Corinthians 15:23, Jesus was the firstfruits. *God tithed Jesus to us!*

God has given us so much more as well—all things are ours, we are Christ's and Christ is God's (1 Corinthians 7:23). He gave an inheritance in Him and made us heirs forever after His promises (Romans 8:7). But by dying on the Cross at Calvary, Jesus Christ became the firstfruits of "them that slept" in death. He belonged to God and was God's tithe. It was God giving us His best, His only begotten Son.

When the Bible tells us to bring our firstfruits to God, it is because the firstfruits already belong to Him. For this reason, we are called robbers if we don't do it (Malachi 3:10). These firstfruits belong to the Lord, and He will get what belongs to Him!

Proverbs 3:9 says, "Bring in the firstfruit." Matthew 23:23 says, "Do not leave it undone." The firstfruit of what we earn belongs to God Almighty just as the firstfruit of the trees and the land. All things belong to God, and so does our tithe.

"Don't touch the firstfruit," God is telling us. "I want you to reverence Me. Give to Me what is mine first, not second or third."

Many Christians have problems today be-

cause they don't tithe first, so He cannot bless them. God owns the cattle on a thousand hills (Psalm 50:10), and all the gold and silver of the earth are His (Haggai 2:8). Since this is true, God can provide for me when I, by faith, obey and put Him first and put His Kingdom first.

When the widow put in her mite, she gave all that she had. Jesus saw it and that money was sanctified.

Touch Not God's Anointed

God established Moses as His leader over Israel. When Korah went against Moses (see Numbers 16:32), rebelling against his authority and refusing to sanctify his office, God opened the earth and swallowed up the rebellious Israelites. Later, fire came down and consumed others. God sanctified Moses' office just as He sanctifies the offices of His pastors. Pastors are people and they are not perfect. But the office of a pastor is given by God and set apart for Him. Therefore, double honor is given to a pastor because of his office (1 Timothy 5:17).

Noah became drunk from drinking the fruit of the vineyards he planted. Ham, Noah's son, saw him naked and drunk in his tent and ran to tell his brothers. In doing so, Ham revealed that

he did not sanctify the Word of God in Leviticus 18:6; he looked upon the nakedness of his kin. Furthermore, he maligned his father, which means to spread evil reports about people even though it is true. Japheth and Shem entered the tent backwards and covered Noah, their father, without looking at him in that condition. They sanctified the Word of God (see Genesis 9:21-28).

Korah's crowd came under the curse because they didn't sanctify Moses. Ham came under the curse because he didn't sanctify his father.

We Belong to God

"By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment" (Hebrews 11:23).

"By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

"And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

"But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

“From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.

“For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified” (Hebrews 10:10-14).

When God sanctifies something, He sets it apart. That which is set apart unto God is holy. What does God do when He saves us? He sanctifies us.

Do you know why the devil can't have us? Do you know why we can never be lost? Do you know why we can never be taken out of our position in Christ? It is because we are sanctified in Him; we are a holy people. God has perfected forever them that are sanctified.

We are members of a church of the firstborn, members of the New Testament Church. We are the apple of God's eye (Zechariah 2:8), a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a special treasure that shows forth the praises of God. We were brought out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9). We are God's Body, His people, and the world had better not touch God's people because we belong to Him.

When a member of the Body of Christ fails, it is a family affair. God deals with those who fail. It is no one's business but God's. Everyone makes such a big deal about failure. But the

truth is, failure is only God's business, unless someone else was affected. Then, the person who failed must make things right. Even then, the matter should only involve the affected parties and no one else.

The reason why we can never lose our salvation is that we are God's; we are a holy people (1 Peter 2:9). Holiness doesn't imply sinless perfection (see 1 John 1:8). Holiness means that we are set apart and belong to Him.

Chapter Three

PUTTING SANCTIFICATION TO PRACTICE

“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

“For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

“Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied” (1 Peter 1:2).

God takes what is His and makes it holy. Likewise, I can make something holy to God when I sanctify it by setting it apart for His use only. When I present my body to God, I sanctify my body. He sanctifies it at salvation, but when I give it back to Him on purpose, dedicating my life to Him, I sanctify what is His. When I pre-

sent my body to God, I sanctify it.

Every one of us has a calling. Certainly, we can “adjust” and become successful in the eyes of men anywhere in life. We can win souls anywhere. We can love God anywhere. We can be effective anywhere. And, God will bless us if we are right with Him. But we must remember that our calling is holy and heavenly. It is very crucial that we understand the sovereign, operational, geographical, and permissive will of God. God uses us according to our calling in dedication to His service.

Family Life and Relationships

When I love my wife, I sanctify my marriage. When my wife responds to me, she fulfills what a wife can do. She sanctifies womanhood in marriage.

Sex in a marriage is sanctified when a man has a single eye toward his wife and she has a single eye toward him. There is no fantasizing, there is no lust involved. What do they have? Pure love. They have sanctified sex because their bodies and minds are set apart to God.

A man who lays down his life for his wife the way Christ laid down His life for the church is sanctifying his marriage. He is also setting his

wife apart through the washing of water by the Word (Ephesians 5:26-27). He is a sanctified husband, and she is a sanctified wife as she shows him great honor (Ephesians 5:32-33).

When children obey their parents, they sanctify the family. When a father and mother sanctify their relationship to their children, they, too, sanctify the family. Can you see what God is after? This is why baby dedications are more than mere ceremonies. The time of dedication represents the *parents* saying, "We give ourselves to God to bring up these children in sanctification. Lord, You sanctify us and help us bring up these children in sanctification."

God sees our hearts and He knows our desires and intentions. He realizes our motives. Time and time again, God honors the parents' sanctification of the dedication of their children. The parents present themselves for the child so the child can be sanctified. Very often, those children become saved when they reach the age of accountability, and then they are set apart for God's use.

When I give God the first tenth of my money, then I sanctify the money. The money becomes holy. When I pray in the Holy Spirit of God (1 John 5:14) according to God's will, then

my prayer becomes holy in the name of Jesus (John 14:15).

When we forgive each other and forget, then we make forgiveness holy. Forgiveness must be extended to others. When we forgive and forget, we sanctify obedience in holiness.

When we enter into friendships and we love at all times as friends born for adversity, then we sanctify friendships (see Proverbs 17:17). We set these friendships apart and make them holy unto God.

The Assembly and the Great Commission

“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching” (Hebrews 10:25).

“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15).

When we come to church faithfully as the Bible tells us to, then we sanctify our obedience to hear our pastor-teacher. By coming to church on purpose, we sanctify hearing the Word of God from the preacher (Romans 10:17). We make coming to church holy. Through worshipping God in spirit and in doctrine, our worship

is made holy. We make the Word holy in our lives by listening to the Word.

When we respond to God's call to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature, what does it do for the people who go and for the church that supports God's Great Commission? We are doing something that is holy. Going into all the world sanctifies the Great Commission; we are doing our part in response to grace, and that makes these things holy, separated unto God.

Jesus went from house to house. He was a street preacher. He sent out the twelve disciples and He sent out the seventy. The Great Commission was being sanctified. I could have an all right church and still not fulfill the call to seek the lost. In that case, I would not be sanctifying the Great Commission. Where was the Great Commission given? In God's Word, and His Word is holy and set apart.

A teacher who, in obedience, teaches in the power of the Holy Spirit—whether in a Christian school or a public school—makes his office holy. It is no longer just a job or profession. It is something that is sanctified, set apart for God's use.

It might be difficult for you to believe, but one of the most beautiful things that can happen

is persecution. People will run down a church, making up lies, telling stories. Our part is to respond in love to our enemies (Matthew 5:24). In doing this, we make persecution holy. If we suffer with Christ, we will reign with Him (see 2 Timothy 3:12).

When we become the victim and reconcile with someone who is guilty of a wrong against us, we make reconciliation holy. When we put that into practice, reconciliation becomes holy in our lives.

When we love one another as Christ loves us (John 15:12), we develop something more than relationships; we develop holy relationships.

Sacrifices of Praise

“I beseech you...by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service” (Romans 12:1).

To sanctify something means to use it in total dedication to God, set apart for God’s purpose. Throughout the first eleven chapters of Romans, the mercies of God are expressed. Now, here comes the apostle Paul saying, “I beseech you that you present your bodies a living sacrifice.” A living sacrifice indicates a sacrifice that was

raised from the dead. A sacrifice of praise is praise raised to God because we went through the sacrifice.

I used to wonder what “sacrifice of praise” meant. Did it mean that just praising God is a sacrifice? No, praising God is not a sacrifice; it is a privilege. We praise God because Jesus became the once-and-for-all sacrifice for our sins. That is why we offer the sacrifice of praise.

The living sacrifice is this: Jesus died, we died with Him. After dying, we were buried with Him, and now we are alive with Him because He was raised from the dead. We are alive from the dead spiritually and made brand-new creatures (Ephesians 2:5, 6).

This is what God is saying: “You have come forth from the grave. In your place, I did the dying. I took you to the grave with Me. Because of this, I want you to present your body to Me now and have your mind renewed every single day so that you can live as somebody raised from the dead.”

“I beseech you brethren....” This is an exhortation to go from knowledge to wisdom, from knowing something to applying it, from having truth to revealing it. Christ beseeches us to go from a theological understanding to a practice in

our minds and bodies.

God is saying, "I want you to present your bodies a living sacrifice by My mercies. Don't be conformed to this world: be transformed by the renewing of your mind. When you do this, you will prove what is good. As you keep praying, you will prove what is acceptable. I will show you what is perfect, good, and acceptable through a measure of faith and a measure of grace" (see Romans 12:2-3).

In Songs, Sickness, and Affliction

Singing is sanctified when it is done in the filling of the Spirit. Christ sings in the midst of the congregation (Hebrews 2:12). Singing is beautiful when it is done in the Holy Spirit. It begins with the psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs that make melodies in our hearts to God (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16).

Sickness can be sanctified to God, as represented in the cases of Amy Carmichael and Fanny Crosby. Much sickness is not sanctified at all. Still, God allows sickness at times because of His perfect plan of Redemption.

Consider Job's afflictions. In his third trial, Job failed, but he came out a winner. His sicknesses were sanctified and so was his rebound.

Our rebound is sanctified, dedicated for God's use. When we fail and get up off the deck, it is a time of sanctification. God holds us up when we have fallen totally flat on our faces (see Deuteronomy 33:26-27).

Another thing that is sanctified is a cheerful countenance (Proverbs 13:15, 17, 22, 23). Our countenance can reflect our dedication and commitment to the will of God, the Word of God, the grace of God, the power of God, the love of God, and the fellowship of God. On the other side, a sad countenance testifies against us and is not sanctified.

Hearing and Edifying

Listening is another thing that must be sanctified. A sanctified listener is careful to make certain that what he hears is right. He knows how to hear (Mark 4:24; Luke 8:18). Sanctified listeners are usually sanctified communicators. A bad listener will not be a profitable servant, and he is sure to say things are not in the proper perspective from the Bible.

When we are filled with the Spirit and the Word, all things are holy to us. God can look down and say, "There is a prepared vessel. He has some growing to do. At times, he will have

to rebound, but he is going to make it. He is a prepared vessel" (Psalm 4:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:3). God looks for people who are not prepared when He knows that they will get prepared as He deals with them.

Before I was appointed to my first church in a little town in Maine, two women prayed every morning for four years. I never met the women, but they wanted a man of God to come and bless their church. Their prayers were sanctified. They were praying in the Spirit, and their prayers were sanctified, dedicated to God's service to glorify Him.

The Power of Prayer

When we go to God in prayer, we are filled with the Spirit, filled with love, filled with grace. Everything is right between us and the Lord. We say, "Dear Father, You know where I am, and You know what I want for people. I am going to ask You for some things for my loved ones and my family, and You will hear me."

God sanctifies prayers such as these.

Each thought we bring into obedience to Christ is sanctified. Of course, we fail sometimes. But our next thought should be to rebound. This is thinking in sanctification because

our mind has been dedicated for the use of serving God.

Our tongue is sanctified when it is the tongue of redemption (Proverbs 10:20), when it is the tongue that edifies (Ephesians 4:29).

We must sanctify what God sanctifies through grace and by faith in obedience. There should be no familiarity with the things of God; we cannot afford to treat them with common understanding. 1 Peter 1:2 tells us that we are sanctified through the Spirit and the Word and the Blood. When we do things in the Spirit, we sanctify what we are doing because “faithful is He who calls us who also will do it” (1 Thessalonians 5:24). He performs what He asks us to do (Job 23:14).

The Holy Spirit is sanctifying us and we dedicate ourselves to the Spirit, to the Word of God, and to Calvary to be used and dedicated for Jesus Christ in His service.

CONCLUSION

“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

“And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure” (1 John 3:1-3)

The day is coming when we will see the Lord and be just as He is. At that moment, we will be perfected completely—totally blessed forever. Everything about us will be holy.

Here on earth, however, we can have set-apart lives because we are sanctified through the Spirit unto obedience by the sprinkling of the Blood of Christ. The most beautiful thing we can do in this world is to make our bodies holy unto God. Let’s make our tithe holy. Let’s set apart

our marriages. Let us set apart our friendships. Let us make fulfilling the Great Commission holy.

In giving thanks for all things, we make our praise holy (Ephesians 5:20). When the Word of God dwells richly in our hearts, we speak psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in our hearts, then our inner lives become holy unto Him. When everything we do in word or deed glorifies Him, our behavior is made holy.

No matter where you are, turn to God in faith. Satan may be constantly tempting you toward depression. Yet, every time you act in faith, you turn your back on the devil. Instead of living in confusion, walk forward by faith, trusting God and hearing His voice.

God takes so much pleasure in watching us present ourselves to Him, spirit, soul, and body. He is so pleased when we are always available and always prepared. As we go forward with pure motives, pure thoughts, and pure words, we will glorify God in our bodies with good emotions and good behavior. Let's go forward. Let us present our bodies to Him every morning and be filled with the Spirit throughout the day.