

Sanctification

What do we really mean by the term 'sanctification' or 'sanctified'? In the New Testament we see the concept mentioned a number of times but do we really understand the concept?

I am about to quote some verses, point out something obvious from each one and then ask the obvious question which arises. That should reveal whether we understand the concept or not.

1 Corinthians 1:2 [perfect tense]

2 To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their *Lord* and ours:

1 Corinthians 6:11 [aorist tense]

11 Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

Hebrews 10:14 [present tense]

14 For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

Here we have verses saying that sanctification belongs to three tenses. How can this be? Have we been sanctified or will we be sanctified at some time in the future? Is sanctification a present ongoing process?

We have an apparent conflict. Can all the verses be correct? Yes they are. Of course they must be. Can you explain how?

Heb 10:10 By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

1Thes 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Heb 10:14 For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

2Cor 13:11 Finally, brethren, **rejoice**, ^bbe **made complete**, be **comforted**, be **like-minded**, **live in peace**; and the God of love and peace will be with you.