

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

³ For this is the will of God, your sanctification

Sanctification [NW1828]:

The act of making holy. In an evangelical sense, the act of God's grace by which the affections of men are purified or alienated from sin and the world, and exalted to a supreme love to God.

Complete *and* Continuous

Holy [NW1828]:

Properly, whole, entire or perfect, in a moral sense. Hence, pure in heart, temper or dispositions; free from sin and sinful affections. [...] We call a man holy when his heart is conformed in some degree to the image of God, and his life is regulated by the divine precepts. [...]

Complete *and* Continuous

Positional Sanctification

Progressive Sanctification

Positional Sanctification

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way[...] – *Isaiah 53:6a*
for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, – *Romans 3:23*

⁹ then he [Jesus] added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. – *Hebrews 10:9-10*

¹² So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood.

– *Hebrews 13:12*

And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption – *1 Corinthians 1:30*

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,
– *John 1:12*

For this is the will of God, your sanctification – 1 Thessalonians 4:3a

Progressive Sanctification

For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

– *Hebrews 10:14*

I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

– *Romans 6:19*

the act of, by God's grace, pursuing holiness in our lives

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

– *1 Corinthians 10:31*

17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. [...]

– *Colossians 3:17, 23-24*

23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

– *Colossians 3:17, 23-24*

We need both:

Positional Sanctification

Progressive Sanctification

Complete and continuous