

Volume VI

# The Essentials



## Servanthood

**We'd like to welcome you to the educational series "The Essentials". These series of study books are designed to equip the believers of Christ with the essentials to live the life the scripture say we should have. This series will also help us to understand and embrace our anointed call to change our view about ourselves and give ourselves to become ambassadors of change in world around us.**

**To properly understand the calling of Christ it is mandatory that we give ourselves to grasping some clarity related to His call. The central resource to discover what Christ has called us to is the Bible. In the pages of the bible, we will discover that we have been made for a purpose. As a matter of fact, "we have been made for this time and this time is made for us". Since so much of who we are and who we are to be is held within the sacred scripture, we must develop a new mind-set in seeking to learn about our Lord's plan for us.**

**We must embrace this reality: “Our assured purpose is rooted in the word of God. To understand our assignment and the father’s destined will for us, it is imperative that we engage the searching of the scriptures as a lifetime journey”. 1 John 3:2 ...it doth not appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear we shall be like him...**

**There are principle fundamentals that God has laid out for our benefit that will help us to understand that “there is nothing that has happened to us that God is not aware of and has made to work for us”. We discover these truths as we study our God and His ways.**

**Special thanks to Bishop Timothy J. Clarke of the First Church, Columbus, Ohio for his permission to use the Foundation class material.**

# **THE SERVANTHOOD Holiness & Sanctification**

## **Introduction**

**The Church of God Worship Center is a Wesleyan holiness church which teaches that all the children of men are either servants of God or servants of sin; these are the two families of mankind. Christians have been made free from sin and have become the servants of righteousness. (Romans 6:17—18) No longer are believers aliens of God, but now have become the children of God. 1 (Romans 9:25-26)**

**As the children of God we have been commanded to serve him by living a life that is holy.**

## **1 Peter 1:14-16**

**14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.**

**15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do**

**16 for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.” (NIV-emphasis added)**

**What does it mean to be holy/sanctified?**

**The idea of holiness originates in the revealed character of God and is communicated to things, places, times and persons engaged in the service of God. The word holiness is a translation of the Greek word “hagios,” and is defined as: the pure loving nature of God, completely separate from evil, and characterizes persons who have entered into a personal relationship with God.**

---

**Stafford, Gilbert W. Theology for Disciples, Warner Press, Anderson, IN. Page 346**

**This new identity as children of God is the result of God’s unmerited grace expressed in the process of sanctification. The word sanctification is translated from the Greek**

**word “hagiasmos” and is defined as: consecration, a separation unto God from a profane, secular and carnal use to a sacred, religious, and spiritual use, it signifies the process of being made holy.**

**Sanctification does not refer to a special class of spirituality within the church, for it is the whole church-every person that has accepted Jesus as their Savior and Lord, including those with serious relational, moral, and ethical problems. All, regardless of their degree of maturity or immaturity are referred to as the “sanctified in Christ Jesus.” (Acts 20:32, Hebrew 10:10,14)**

**Sanctification does not mean flawless behavior; it means single-hearted devotion to the God of our salvation. Therefore, as children of God, God sanctifies us completely: our bodies, our souls, and our spirits for His use.**

**Review:**

**The idea of**

\_\_\_\_\_ originates in the revealed character of God.

\_\_\_\_\_ signifies the process of being made holy.

**How do we become sanctified?**

**Both salvation and sanctification are the work of the Holy Spirit from beginning to end. Apart from the work of the Holy Spirit it is impossible to enter into salvation, and for the process of sanctification to be worked out in the life of the believer. The work of the Holy Spirit in sanctifying the believer is vast and includes:**

**Confirming our identity- According to the Apostle Paul, we would not even know ourselves to be God's children apart from the internal witness of the Holy Spirit. The indwelling Holy Spirit gives us confidence about whose we are.**

**Rom 8:16-17**

**16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.**

**17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs - heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. (NIV)**

**Producing the "fruit of the Spirit" - It is the Holy Spirit who changes the hearts and minds of believers to desire a Christ-centered life that is characterized by the following:**

**Gal 5:22-23**

**22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,**

**23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. (NIV - emphasis added)**

**Equipping us for service - the Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to every believer to assist the church in carrying out its mission for God to the world. [1 Corinthians 12:1-11]**

**What is the responsibility of the believer?**



**The onus of responsibility is on every believer to submit to the Holy Spirit and allow the Spirit's work to be done in his or her life. The Holy Spirit does not empower and purify believers for witness and service apart from their voluntarily yielding to the purpose of the Holy Spirit. The believer becomes a servant of God and used to His glory as they mature and do the following:**

**Present themselves to God- Romans 6:19 reminds believers that just as in former times they had presented themselves as slaves to "impurity and ever-increasing wickedness," so now as Christians, they should present themselves as slaves/servants "to righteousness leading to holiness."**

**Rom 6:19**

**19 I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness. (NIV)**

**Cleanse themselves from certain practices and ways of living -2 Corinthians 7:1 calls on believers to cleanse themselves "from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God." Having presented ourselves to God, we become His ambassadors to the world and our lives should therefore reflect the holiness of our Father and His Holy Spirit who is at work in us. This mandates giving-up some things including:**

**~ Smoking**

**~ Alcohol consumption**

**~ Gambling- including the lottery**

**What we are called upon to cleanse ourselves from?**

**Eph 4:24-5:7**

**24 and to put on the new self: created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.**

**25 Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body.**

**26 "In your anger do not sin":Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry,**

**27 and do not give the devil foothold.**

**28 He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.**

**29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.**

**30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.**

**31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.**

**32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.**

## **CHAPTER 5**

**1 Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children**

**2 and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.**

**3 But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.**

**4 Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.**

**5 For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person--such a man is an idolater--has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.**

**6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.**

**7 Therefore do not be partners with them.  
(NIV - emphasis added)**

**New Testament requirements for "right living" or "holiness" teach us that it is our personal responsibility to live a holy and sanctified life, and the Holy Spirit provides**

**the power and ability for us to do so. Living a Godly and holy life begins as a result of the Holy Spirit's work at the moment of conversion and is intensified through the experience of the sanctification process.**

**Review:**

**Salvation and sanctification are the work of the \_\_\_\_\_.**

**The responsibility of each believer is to \_\_\_\_\_ the Holy Spirit.**

**Conclusion**

**As a believer we have been called upon to serve God by living a life of holiness. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to change us and make us into the image and likeness of God, to become Christ-like. Sanctification is the process by which the Holy Spirit makes us holy, as we willingly submit ourselves to His guidance.**