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מְקַדֵּשׁ יְהוָה

Jehovah Mekadesh – The Lord Who Sanctifies

When the Church is absolutely different from the world, she invariably attracts it. It is then that the world is made to listen to her message, though it may hate it at first. - D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones[1]

*"Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am the LORD your God. And you shall keep My statutes, and perform them: I am **the LORD who sanctifies** you." (Leviticus 20:7-8)*

"We've all seen No Trespassing signs. They post alerts that no unauthorized person should enter. They remind us that some places are off-limits unless we've been duly authorized to enter. A boundary has been set up to keep unwanted people out. We are warned not to make an illegal or illegitimate entry into an area where the sign is posted. In fact, the No Trespassing signs often include the warning, 'Violators Will Be Prosecuted.' The book of Leviticus is God's No Trespassing sign. It's where God clearly calls out His people to be set apart from the rest. In it, He implores them to a life of sanctification—of not allowing the world's viewpoint and ways to trespass on their minds, bodies, or spirits."[2]

The term sanctify appears 700x in the Old Testament in various forms. The word can also be translated as "to dedicate," "to consecrate," "to separate," "to set apart," or "to hallow".

1. God Himself is holy

Speaking to a discipleship group on the attributes of God, James Montgomery Boice asked them to list God's qualities in order of importance. Their list began with "love," then "wisdom," "power," "mercy," "omniscience," "truth," and at the end of the list was "holiness." He later wrote, "That did surprise me, because the Bible refers to God's holiness more than any other attribute."[3]

Revelation 4:8 says that twenty-eight living creatures are crying out, ***"holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts."***

2. God sets apart the sacred from the common.

- Ordinary ground became sacred because God consecrated it for His use in Exodus 3:5, which reads, *"Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground."*
- The Sabbath Day under the Old Covenant was set apart from the rest of the week (Exodus 20:28).
- The Tabernacle was sacred (Exodus 28:29).
- The anointing oil used in the Temple was sacred (Exodus 30:25).
- The utensils used in the Temple were sacred (Exodus 30:29).
- The tithe is sacred (Leviticus 27:30)
- Food can be sanctified by the Word of God and prayer, for "Everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude" (1 Timothy 4:4-5).

3. God sets us apart for Himself.

Leviticus 20:26 – *"And **you shall be holy** to Me, for I the LORD am holy, and **have separated you** from the peoples, that you should be Mine."*

See also Hebrews 10:10 and 1 Thessalonians 5:23

Oswald Chambers once said, "God has one destined end for mankind - holiness! His one aim is the production of saints. God is not an eternal blessing-machine for men. He did not come to save men out of pity. He came to save men because He had created them to be holy".[4]

4. We set ourselves apart for Him.

2 Timothy 2:19 says, "Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: 'The Lord knows those who are His,' and, 'Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.'"

John 14:15, "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."

See Romans 12:1; 1 John 2:15;

Sanctification can be defined as *"the continuing operation of the Holy Spirit in the life of a child of God by which the holy disposition imparted in regeneration is strengthened and maintained."*

We set ourselves apart from <u>sin</u> and for <u>service</u>.

[1] D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Studies in the Sermon on the Mount* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1959-60), 28.
[2] Tony Evans, *The Power of God's Names* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2014).
[3] James Montgomery Boice, "Holy, Holy, Holy," *Moody,* January 1985, 14.
[4] As quoted in Max Anders, *30 Days to Understanding the Christian Life in 15 Minutes a Day* (Nashville: T. Nelson, 1998), 262.