

The word ****sanctification**** is often understood only from the perspective of ****God sanctifying us**** (see ****1 Thessalonians 5:23****). At other times Scripture also speaks about ****believers sanctifying themselves**** (see ****1 Peter 1:22****).

However, many believers overlook another biblical truth: ****Scripture also speaks about sanctifying Christ****. This statement appears in the following passage:

> ****1 Peter 3:14–15 (NKJV)****

> “But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you are blessed. And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled. ****But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts****, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.”

This raises an important question:

****How can Christ be sanctified if He is already perfect and holy?****

The apostle Peter gives the answer:

****“Sanctify the Lord Christ in your hearts.”****

This means that Christ is not sanctified in the sense that we make Him holier than He already is—because ****Christ Himself is perfectly holy****. Rather, ****He is sanctified within our hearts****, meaning that ****our hearts become the place where His holiness, honor, and lordship are recognized and exalted****.

In biblical understanding, ****to sanctify**** means ****to set something apart, to honor it as holy, or to restore it to its rightful place of glory****.

Therefore, ****sanctifying Christ in our hearts**** means giving Him the ****highest place of honor, glory, and authority in our inner life****.

There are several ways through which a believer sanctifies Christ in their heart.

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1. Accepting the Way of the Cross

Peter connects sanctifying Christ with **suffering for righteousness**.

> **1 Peter 3:14 (NKJV)**

> “But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you are blessed. And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.”

There are times when you may be **hated** simply because you refuse to lie,

or you may **lose your job** because you refuse to take a bribe,

or you may be **persecuted** because you preach the gospel,

or even ****attacked because you rebuke sin****.

In such moments many people choose to avoid suffering by ****compromising with evil****. Yet when we compromise, we push Christ aside from His rightful place in our hearts.

But when believers ****stand firmly for truth and righteousness****, even at a cost, ****Christ is greatly honored within them****.

After all, Christ Himself ****suffered for righteousness****. He was mocked, beaten, and crucified because He stood for the truth.

> ****1 Peter 2:21 (NKJV)****

> “For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps.”

Therefore, when Christ sees believers **walking in His footsteps**, His glory shines brightly through their lives.

Do not avoid costly trials if they come because you stand for righteousness.

****Sanctify Christ in your heart.****

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2. Praising Him for His Grace

Another way to sanctify Christ in your heart is **through heartfelt praise for His grace**.

> **Ephesians 1:6-7 (NKJV)**

> “To the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”

When you deeply understand **what Christ accomplished on the cross**, you begin to realize that **your redemption, forgiveness, and salvation came through His sacrifice**.

The more you ****meditate on the grace of salvation****, the more your heart overflows with ****praise, thanksgiving, and worship****.

When Christ sees that you truly value His finished work on the cross, ****He is greatly exalted in your heart****.

> ****Hebrews 13:15 (NKJV)****

> “Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.”

3. Sacrificing for Him Generously

Remember the woman who anointed Jesus with ****costly perfume****. Others thought it was a waste, but Jesus called it ****a beautiful act of devotion****.

> **Mark 14:6-8 (NKJV)**

> “But Jesus said, ‘Let her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a good work for Me. For you have the poor with you always, and whenever you wish you may do them good; but Me you do not have always. She has done what she could.’”

Similarly, in **Luke 7**, a sinful woman poured expensive perfume on Jesus’ feet and worshiped Him with deep repentance and love.

These acts were **extravagant expressions of devotion**.

Giving generously to God—whether through offerings, service, or

sacrifice—is not about ****persuading God with material things****.
God cannot be bribed.

But such acts ****reveal a heart that treasures Christ above everything else****, and this greatly honors Him.

> ****Romans 12:1 (NKJV)****

> “Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God,
which is your reasonable service.”

When you give sacrificially, ****Christ is sanctified in your heart****.

4. Walking with Him in Prayer

Christ reveals His glory especially to those who ****walk closely**

with Him in prayer**.

Jesus had **twelve apostles**, but among them there were **three who often accompanied Him in deeper moments of prayer**: Peter, James, and John.

When Jesus went up the mountain and was **transfigured**, these three disciples witnessed His glory.

> **Matthew 17:2 (NKJV)**

> “And He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.”

They saw Christ in a ****new dimension of glory**** because they were close to Him.

Likewise, when believers ****spend much time in prayer****, Christ becomes ****more real, more glorious, and more central in their hearts****.

Prayer deepens fellowship with Christ.

> ****James 4:8 (NKJV)****

> “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.”

The closer you draw to Him in prayer, the more ****Christ is**

sanctified in your heart**.

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Conclusion

You sanctify Christ in your heart when:

- * You **accept suffering for righteousness with Him**
- * You **praise Him for the grace of the cross**
- * You **give sacrificially for His work**

* You **walk closely with Him in prayer**

When these things become part of your life, **Christ is greatly honored and exalted within your heart**.

If you would like help **receiving Jesus Christ into your life**, feel free to reach out for prayer and guidance.

> **Romans 10:9 (NKJV)**

> “If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”

May the Lord bless you abundantly.

BUT SANCTIFY CHRIST IN YOUR HEARTS

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