



The Sanctified Life-The Law of Sin

Samson was sanctified by God. The word sanctified means set apart.

1. Samson was chosen by God before He was born
2. Samson's birth was miraculous
3. Samson was set apart to live differently than the other Jews
4. Samson's purpose was to lead others to freedom from slavery
5. Samson was anointed by the Spirit of the Lord to fulfill His purpose

But there was something missing in Samson's relationship with God that caused his story to be marked by lust, deception, broken relationships, physical hardships due to poor choices, and bondage.

Samson was sanctified by God but he never sanctified himself for God. He never set apart his desires, his emotions, and his mind for God.

One example of this is in....

Judges 14:1-3

1 Now Samson went down to Timnah, and saw a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines. 2 So he went up and told his father and mother, saying, "I have seen a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines; now therefore, get her for me as a wife."

3 Then his father and mother said to him, "Is there no woman among the daughters of your brethren, or among all my people, that you must go and get a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?"

And Samson said to his father, "Get her for me, for she pleases me well."

NKJV

Samson never set apart his sexual desires for God. In this story, he chose a woman who was from the nation he was set apart to destroy. Instead of choosing a woman from among the daughters of Israel and the tribe of Dan, he chose a woman who worshiped idols and who would lead in any children they had to worship idols. Samson was disobeying the law of God in...

Deut. 7:3-4

3 Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son. 4 For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the Lord will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly. NKJV

Samson never set apart his desires for food to God. Later in this story Samson eats honey that he found in the dead carcass of a lion that he killed. When he did this he violated the law of God in Lev. 11:35.

[Lev. 11:35](#)

[35 And everything on which a part of any such carcass falls shall be unclean; whether it is an oven or cooking stove, it shall be broken down; for they are unclean, and shall be unclean to you.](#)

[NKJV](#)

Samson was set apart by God but he had not set himself apart for God. Apparently he still went to heaven. He is listed in the hall of fame of faith in Hebrews 11. He was a recipient of the grace of God.

He is an example of how great the grace of God is to cover our sins. He is an example of how we can be sanctified by God but we do not set apart ourselves for God. He is an example of how God can fulfill His purpose for our life in spite of us.

But think for a moment about what might have been for Samson if he would have sanctified himself and his appetites apart for God. Think about the tragedies in his life he would have avoided. Think about how someone with his gifts could have been used by God to lead a nation. There is no one who compares with Samson in the bible. All the other military leaders used an army. Samson used his personal ingenuity and his bare hands. Think about what a powerful spokesman he could have been for God.

Why didn't Samson sanctify himself to God?

Samson understood that he was at war with the Philistines but he did not understand that he was also at war with something that was a much greater threat to himself and Israel than the Philistines.

Samson was uniquely gifted by God but Samson was a human being just like you and me.

We are all born with the continual influence of conscience and reason which offer constant testimony against sin. (Romans 1 and 2)

Samson was also a Jew. This was an advantage because the Jews were God's chosen people and were given prophets and the laws of God that gave them clear instructions about right and wrong. (Romans 3 and 4).

But within Samson and every man and woman is a powerful spiritual force that cannot be defeated by just knowing right from wrong.

This powerful spiritual force is called the law of sin. (Romans 7:21-23)

[Romans 7:21-23](#)

[21 I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. 22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.](#)

NKJV

Although we are more or less under the continual influence of reason and conscience, the objections of reason and conscience are rendered of no effect by the law of sin and the prevalence of sinful passions.

We can even be a faithful church member and learn the laws of God and the commands of Christ but this knowledge is rendered of no effect by the law of sin and prevalence of sinful passions.

What a wretched condition to be in. Paul agrees. (Romans 7:24)

[Romans 7:24](#)

[24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?](#)

NKJV

Samson was at war with the Philistines but he was not at war with the law of sin within his members.

If you are a member of Christ's church, you have been sanctified by God.

1. [We were chosen by God before we are born \(Eph. 1:4\)](#)
2. [Our birth is miraculous \(John 3:5-6\)](#)
3. [We are set apart to live differently than the world around us \(1 Thess. 5:23\)](#)
4. [Our purpose is to lead others to freedom from slavery \(2 Timothy 2:24-26\)](#)
5. [We are anointed by the Spirit of the Lord to fulfill our purpose \(Acts 1:8\)](#)

You have a war to fight and win. That war is not with your spouse. That war is not with your family. That war is not with your church family. That war is not with your friends. That war is not with your enemies. That war is not a political war. That war is within you! It is a war for your appetites and how you are going to fulfill those appetites. It is a war for your emotions and how you are going to feel. It is a war for your mind and how you are going to think. It is a war for your soul!

If you do not understand that this is the real war, you will never start fighting the real war. And like Samson, you may go to heaven when you die but your life will be marked by lust, deception, broken relationships, physical hardships due to poor choices, and bondage.

If you are in Christ, you have been sanctified by God. God has done His part to enable you to win the war.

Your part is to live a sanctified life that honors Christ. You need to set apart your desires, your emotions, and your mind for God.

[Romans 12:1-2](#)

[I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.](#)

NKJV

When we receive Jesus as our savior we receive His Spirit. When we receive the Holy Spirit we become partakers of His divine nature. God's divine nature is righteous. God's divine nature is love. It is the nature of living thing that determines what it is. Since we share God's nature, that is what we are, righteous and loving. That is who we are!

When you surrender your desires, your emotions, and your mind to God, you are cooperating with the Holy Spirit to produce outwardly who you already are inwardly. This is what it means to walk in the Spirit.

If you will walk by faith in the Spirit, you will not fulfill the desires of the flesh. You will win!

Invitation

Will you receive Jesus Christ as your savior?

Will you sanctify yourself for God? Will you surrender your desires, your emotions, and your mind to God?

Will you join a team of disciples to help you and to help others that need you grow as a follower of Jesus Christ?