

John 17:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

Analysis

And for their sakes I sanctify myself (ἀγιάζω ἐμαυτόν, hagiazō emauton)—Jesus consecrates Himself to the cross, setting Himself apart for sacrificial death. This is not moral purification (Jesus is sinless), but vocational dedication to His redemptive mission. The reflexive "myself" emphasizes His voluntary self-offering (John 10:18).

That they also might be sanctified through the truth (ἴνα καὶ αὐτοὶ ὕστιν ἡγιασμένοι ἐν ἀληθείᾳ)—The disciples' sanctification depends on Christ's sanctification. The preposition en ("through/in") indicates the sphere and means of sanctification: God's revealed truth, supremely embodied in Jesus Himself (14:6). Unlike Old Testament ceremonial sanctification, this is ontological transformation—being set apart and made holy by union with the crucified and risen Christ through the Spirit of truth (v. 17).

Historical Context

John 17 records Jesus's High Priestly Prayer on the night before His crucifixion (c. AD 30), likely in the upper room or en route to Gethsemane. Jesus consecrates Himself as both priest and sacrifice, fulfilling the Levitical system where priests sanctified themselves before offering sacrifices (Exodus 19:22). His self-sanctification inaugurates the New Covenant reality where believers are sanctified "once for all" through Christ's offering (Hebrews 10:10).

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's voluntary self-sanctification for your sake deepen your understanding of His love and mission?
2. In what ways does "sanctification through the truth" challenge modern approaches to spiritual growth that neglect Scripture and sound doctrine?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ὑπὲρ αὐτοὶ ἐγὼ ἡγιασμένοι ἐμαυτόν ἵνα καὶ αὐτοὶ¹
And for their I be sanctified myself that And their
G2532 G5228 G846 G1473 G37 G1683 G2443 G2532 G846
ὅσιν ἡγιασμένοι ἐν ἀληθείᾳ
might be sanctified through the truth
G5600 G37 G1722 G225

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 2:11 (Holy): For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,

Titus 2:14 (Parallel theme): Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

John 17:17 (Truth): Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

1 Corinthians 1:2 (Holy): Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both their's and our's:

2 Corinthians 8:9 (Parallel theme): For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

2 Corinthians 4:15 (Parallel theme): For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.

1 Thessalonians 4:7 (Holy): For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.

2 Timothy 2:10 (Parallel theme): Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

Hebrews 9:26 (Parallel theme): For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Hebrews 9:13 (Parallel theme): For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: