

Suggested Answers for Leaders

Observation — What does it say?

1. The word, “sanctify” means to “set apart for special purposes”. At the moment of regeneration, people are completely and decisively “set apart” as belonging to God, and no longer belonging to the Devil (John 8:44 & Colossians 1:12–14). At that point a process of experiential progressive sanctification begins in which we increasingly think and behave in godly ways (Romans 6:22).
2. Key: “then” is in **red**, “now” is in **green**
 - 17 But thanks be to God that though **you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart** to that form of teaching to which you were committed,
 - 18 and **having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.**
 - 19 I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as **you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness**, so **now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.**
 - 20 For **when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.**
 - 21 Therefore **what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed?** For the outcome of those things is death.
 - 22 **But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you ^{do} derive your ^{benefit}, ^{resulting in} sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.**
3. Believers must put to death the deeds of the body, and they do so by the Spirit's power.

Interpretation — What does it mean?

4. Because Christians are unable to pursue holiness by their own resources; God Himself is present within us to cause us to love righteousness, hate sin, and empower us for obedience.
5. It holds together human responsibility and divine empowerment: believers actively obey, while God works in them both to desire and to accomplish what pleases Him.

Application — What do I do with this?

6. (and questions 7 and 8) Lead your group members in an honest discussion of these issues, then...Close in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to power your group to obey this week.