

Sanctuary

Exodus 25:1-9, Hebrews 8:1-10, Romans 8:1-11, I Corinthians 6:19-20

sanc·tu·ary

noun

- a consecrated place: such as, the ancient Hebrew temple at Jerusalem or its holy of holies

con·se·crate

adjective

- dedicated to a sacred purpose

sa·cred

adjective

- dedicated or set apart for the service or worship of God.

1. Sanctuary signifies a consecrated (dedicated, set-apart) place for God.
2. Under the Old Law there was a sanctuary for God in the most holy place in the tabernacle, and later, the temple.
3. The materials and articles used to construct and furnish this holy place were to be collected from the people. The costly items were to signify sacrifice and were to honor God.
4. In II Samuel 7, David had plans to build a house for God, but God rather explains His plans to build David a house (everlasting kingdom). Then in **II Chronicles 2:4-6**, David's son, Solomon, recognized how limited he was to undertake the task of constructing a physical dwelling for God.
5. Jesus is our high priest who mediates for us in the sanctuary and true tabernacle of God **Hebrews 8:1-10**.
6. **Romans 8:1-11** describes a contrast between flesh and spirit. In this passage we can choose to set our mind on the flesh which is hostile to God (opposite of a sanctuary) or on the spirit inviting the Spirit (v9) and Christ (v10) to dwell in us. To be a living sanctuary as the song describes.
7. **II Corinthians 6:19-20** reminds us of the blood of Christ that has purchased us and that our bodies are to be a temple for the Spirit (a sanctuary). We do this by abstaining from immorality thus sanctifying our bodies to God.

Discussion:

- I. We are imploring the Lord to prepare us to be a living sanctuary for Him (verse 1 of the song). "Pure and holy, tried and true"

A. The need for a sanctuary implies necessarily a uniqueness and exclusivity. The majority are not spiritual but carnal.

1. **Matthew 7:13-14**, those who are part of His kingdom are few compared to the world and should stand out in stark contrast to the world around them.

2. **I Thessalonians 5:21-23**, examine carefully, hold to what is good, abstain from every form of evil, that we may be **sanctified** by God and preserved on the day of judgement.

B. Not on flesh...

1. **Romans 6:1-4**, baptism signifies death to sin and resurrection to new life. As Christians, we are to be pure (free from immorality/sin) if we are to be a sanctuary. Fortunately for us, we have access to the blood of Christ for cleansing our impurities if we have been obedient to the gospel call through repentance and baptism. Without this cleansing we are defiled and have no hope to be a sanctuary for the Spirit of God within us.

2. **II Peter 2:18-21**, there is a constant pull from the world (satan) to once again be enslaved to sin. We must be on guard to keep our hearts pure, to be that sanctuary for God. This passage also expresses the danger of falling away describing that it would have been better to have never known the truth than to have tasted it and then to become entangled in the defilements of the world and overcome.

C. ...But on spirit

1. The tabernacle and temple were meant to be sanctified or exclusively devoted to God. John 2:13-17, we see the response of Jesus to the corruption of the temple that was supposed to be a sanctuary for God.

2. **John 4:21-24**, the place of worship is no longer a physical location in the city of Jerusalem, but now in our hearts in spirit and truth.

3. "Pure and holy"—washed clean by the blood of Christ with a sincere effort to increase our understanding of God's word and allow it to mold us into the disciple He would have us to be tried and true," "tried and true"—successfully overcoming adversity because of our faith (James 1:2-4).

II. In order to be a sanctuary we are to be united together in Christ as He died for one church.

A. **John 17:16-21**, Jesus prayed to the Father that His disciples be set apart from the world by the word of God (truth) and that we might all be one (united) as the Father and Son are one.

B. Philippians 4:2-3, Euodia and Syntyche were sisters in Christ who were quarreling about something and Paul admonished them to live in harmony.

C. Matthew 5:23-24, it is important to resolve disputes quickly and before we offer up worship to God

D. Ephesians 4:1-6, Paul's admonishment to walk according to our calling, balancing between gentleness and tolerance while preserving unity in the one body (church).

E. II Timothy 2:24-26 describes how to achieve unity: not quarrelsome, kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, gently correcting those in opposition to the truth.

III. Were it not for Jesus sacrifice we would have no way to be a sanctuary for God. The high priest had to make sacrifice for his sins and enter the holy place of the temple once a year to make atonement for the sins of the people. Our high priest sits on the right hand of God in heaven and has no need to make sacrifice for His sins for He had none, but intercedes for us cleansing us from our impurities. God and sin cannot dwell together, therefore it is only through our cleansing by the blood of Jesus that we are sanctified and able to be a living sanctuary for God.

Romans 6:1-7, 12-19, 22 (NASB)

Believers Are Dead to Sin, Alive to God

6 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? ² May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? ³ Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? ⁴ Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have become united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be *in the likeness* of His resurrection, ⁶ knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; ⁷ for he who has died is freed from sin.

¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, ¹³ and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin *as* instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God. ¹⁴ For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace. ¹⁵ What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be! ¹⁶ Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone *as* slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? 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.

²² But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.

Conclusion:

How do we become a sanctuary for God??

- First by responding to the gospel call: recognize your sinful condition, be willing to repent of your sins, and to be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins.
- Stand out, shine brightly in this dark world, strive for purity, abstain from immorality
- Be focused on spiritual things (eternal) and not fleshly things (passing away).
 - Don't become entangled once again in the snares of the world and overcome.
 - Remember that you were purchased with the blood of Christ, make it your mission to overcome adversity to grow stronger.
- Unity and harmony with our brethren are important! Jesus prayed for unity and there are admonishments to maintain it throughout the New Testament.
- Remember and thank God every day for His love for us and His willingness to sacrifice His Son for our forgiveness. More importantly put Him first and live a life that demonstrates appreciation for all that was done for us.