

Why did God choose to Sanctify us?

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 *“For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.”*

This is the one single question that we will never know the answer to. But God indeed chose us by His own will and purposed everything in our life and brought about everything He chose in us. **Ephesians 1:4 - 5** *“According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,”* The word “predestinated” means – to determine before, to ordain – but the word also means - to limit in advance – Vines defines it as – to determine before hand or to foreknow. It was God’s choice to “elect” a remnant of people before the foundation of the world to be His children. Now, the debates of those who deny this is a worthless debate because God has said that He did. The same is in the actions and life of every single believer, God has foreknown, ordained, and predestinated their entire life of good to His glory. **Ephesians 2:10** *“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”* We, as Christians are exactly what God wanted us to be, our walk may not be perfect, but our accomplishments for the Lord are exactly what God predestinated before the world was ever created. We will never understand why God elected us in this matter, but He did and I for one thank God He did.

A. God chose to sanctify us all in Christ.

1. Jesus was speaking to Paul about his salvation said this, **Acts 26:18** *“To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.”* Jesus also said in the middle of verse 16 *“for I have*

appeared unto thee for this purpose,” Paul did exactly as Jesus told him why God had ordained his choosing.

2. Now, look back to verse where Jesus said, *“and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.”* The word “sanctified” means - to make holy or to be purified – the word here means - the believer who turns away from such things as dishonor God and His gospel – that is *“From the power of Satan unto God”* this is done in Christ and only in Christ.
 3. Paul speaking to the Ephesian Elders wrote this, **Acts 20:32** *“And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.”*
 4. How does God sanctify us as He wants us to be in this world? **John 17:17** *“Sanctify them through thy truth: **thy word is truth.**”*
 5. It is clear that God chose us not just as children, but to also to walk on this world for His glory. **1 Corinthians 6:9-11** *“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: **but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.**”* It doesn’t matter what you were, it only matters what God chose and sanctified you for.
- B. God elected to accomplish this through Jesus Christ. Let’s go back to **Acts 26:18** *“To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are **sanctified by faith that is in me.**”*
1. Jesus lived an impeccable life, He done this so that IN HIM we can live and impeccable life. Not in this world, spiritually but in Him.
 2. Listen closely to **Titus 3:4-7** *“But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he (the Holy Ghost) shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs*

according to the hope of eternal life.” – and “Not by works of righteousness which we have done” The word “shed” means - to pour forth; figuratively to bestow -

3. Are we perfect, NO we are not, not in our earthly walk, but spiritually in Christ we are.
4. This word “shed” by the Holy Ghost refers to everything from God, look at **Romans 5:5 - 6** *“And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.”*

C. People need to be careful; God is in charge.

1. Paul wrote in **Romans 8:33** *“Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.”*
2. Sometimes people allow themselves to question God’s work, we better be careful.
3. Not only does God save sinners, but God also forgives our sins, calls us by His grace, and He has ordained us to our earthly and spiritual walk. No one has the authority to choose our path but God.
4. How could a man, who was such a Jew that he persecuted the church of Jerusalem because He hated God and Jesus Christ so much, he was willing to kill Christians, ever be an Apostle?
 - a. Paul said in **1Cor. 15:9** *“For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.”*
 - b. The people talking about Paul, **Gal. 1:13** *“For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it:”*
 - c. Paul admitted *“how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it”* The words “wasted it” means he destroyed it. The word which is used here, means properly to waste or destroy something to make it non-existent, that was his intention.
 - d. Albert Barnes likened it to *“when a city or country is ravaged by an army or by wild beasts.”*
 - e. Was he unable to do God’s work? Was his sin too great? Was he unusable by God?
1 Corinthians 15:9 - 10 *“For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to*

be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.”

5. What or whoever God has chosen, or God has predetermined, or God has sanctified, who are we to question them or charge them. *“It is God that justifieth.”* Rom. 8:33