

Sanctify God In Your Hearts

Peter writes, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear" (1 Peter 3:15). Submitting to and obeying God is acknowledging the very Being of God Himself, thus the sanctification of God in our hearts.

Note how Peter instructs that such acknowledging must be done with meekness and fear. Proper fear of God is required that one might believe that Jesus is His Son and that He fulfilled the will of the Father in order to save mankind from sin. Luke records, "Let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36). Further acknowledgement of God is seen through confessing Jesus; "and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Colossians 2:11). Meekness, the willingness to open up ones heart, can bring about what Paul told the Christians in Rome - "That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in you heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Romans 10:9-10).

Acknowledging Jesus as our Lord is much more than a mere statement, true acknowledgment is to submit to and obey Him. Such includes commands that are easy to understand and make sense, but also includes those commands that are difficult and may not make sense. Often the problem with what makes sense is that what "seems right to man" is actually the way that leads to spiritual death (Proverbs 14:12). We are well to remember that what seems right to God is the only right way. Yet, such is the challenge of submission and obedience to our Lord and Savior.

Simply stating that Jesus is our Lord and living under His teaching and commandments are completely different things. Jesus Himself declares, "But why do you call Me Lord, Lord, and not do the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46) This leads us back to Peter's divinely given expectation that Christians must sanctify or set apart in their hearts Jesus as Lord? The choice to sanctify Jesus as our Lord is just that - a choice - but the choice that will allow us to stand justified in the eyes of God.