

SANCTIFICATION BY ASSOCIATION

The doctrinal concept of Associational Sanctification is taught by Paul in our lesson text.

Paul was conducting a bible study on the importance of Christian marriage. We will examine the outline of the first three lessons.

- Pre-marital counseling (1 Cor.6:15-7:9) Sex inside and outside of marriage
- Christian marriage (1 Cor.7:10-11) Separation or reconciliation
- Mixed marriage (1 Cor.7:12-16) Sanctification as blessing by association.

By mixed marriage, we are referring to marriage between a believer and a non-believer.

We will outline our lesson text by the following three points.

- **Consenting** (suneudokeo / p.a.ind.3ps) **unbeliever**
 - (1 Cor.7:12-14) “To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.”
 - § Sanctification as blessings by association (meta+gen.) if the unbelieving one stays
- **Unconsenting unbeliever**
 - (1 Cor.7:15) “But if the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man or woman is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace.”
 - § Scriptural rights to remarriage if the unbelieving one leaves the marriage
- **Conversion**
 - (1 Cor.7:16) “How do you know, wife, whether (1cc) [and it’s true] you will save your husband? Or, how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?”
 - § Salvation is the goal of staying together (2 Pet.3:9; John 16:7-11).

This lesson will study SIX aspects of Associational Sanctification regarding mixed marriages and children.

1. Mixed marriages are the results of Church evangelism of local communities (Acts 1:8). A mate would get saved and return to an unbelieving household.

We will examine two such cases from Paul’s second missionary trip in Philippi of Acts 16 (1 Cor.7:16).

- Conversion of Lydia (Acts.16:11-15, 14-15).
- Conversion of a jailor (Acts.16:23-40, 30-33).

Do you see God’s purpose in converting a member of a household?

2. Christians are instructed to never marriage unbelievers.

(2 Cor.6:14-16) “**Do not be unequalled yoked with unbelievers**; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God.”

(1 Cor.7:39) “A wife is bound as long as her husband lives; but if her husband is dead, she is free to marriage to whom she wishes, **only in the Lord.**”

(1 Cor.9:5) “Do we not have a right to take along a **believing wife**, even as the rest of the apostles, and the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas?”

3. Marriage is one of five Divine Institutions for mankind (Gen.2:18-25).

However, whenever there is a believer in that marriage, it becomes a Christian mission field.

Paul made this point in our lesson text. The believer remains in the marriage under the mandates of the word of God as long as the unbeliever is willing (1 Cor.7:13-15).

(1 Cor.7:14) “For the unbelieving husband is **sanctified (hagiozo/ perf.p.ind.3ps)** through (en+inst. of means) his wife and the unbelieving wife is **sanctified (same)** through her believing husband; for otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are holy.” [Marriage and family are an evangelism opportunity because of Positive Volition]

The believer in the mixed marriage becomes an ambassador of Christ (2 Cor.5:18-21).

4. The goal is to stay in a mixed marriage as long as the unbeliever is not hostile to Christ or Christian teachings in order to be an ambassador for Christ of the grace gospel.

(1 Cor.7:16) “For how do you know, O wife, whether (1cc) **you will save (sozo/ f.a.ind.2ps)** your husband? Or how do you know, husband, whether (1cc) **you will save your wife?**”
(1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16)

The unbelieving mate with Positive Volition (PV) becomes sanctified (set apart) to divine blessings by association with a believer (1 Cor.7:14, 16) (**2 Pet.3:9**).

5. Associational sanctification is one of four biblical sanctifications.

- **Associational sanctification** (1 Cor.7:12-16)
 - First mission field is the HOME: marriage and family.
- **Positional sanctification** (1 Cor.12:13)
 - Every CAB is baptized by Holy Spirit into union with Christ.
- **Experiential sanctification** (Gal.5:16-17)
 - Every CAB is indwelt by Holy Spirit in order to live in the world by a supernatural power.
- **Ultimate sanctification** (1 Cor.15:50-58)
 - Every CAB becomes like Christ forever (Phil.3:21; 2 Cor.5:6-8).

6. What about a marriage between two believers but one isn't walking in manner worthy of the Lord?

(Eph.4:1) “I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worth of the calling with which you have been called.”

The answer is given by Peter in 1 Pet.3:1-7.

WIFE
Submissive to husband

HUSBAND (Likewise)
Submissive to Lord (1 Cor.11:3)