

**The Names of God VII: YHWH M’Kadeshkem, or YHWH who Makes you Holy.**  
**From Leviticus 20:1-8 and Exodus 13:31, June 2, 2019**

An important part of getting to know someone is knowing their name. God gave to us names and titles of Himself that reveal who He is, to us. We’ve come to know God by the names, YHWH, the name of being that He gave to Himself. Its letters secretly but openly preach the cross. Elohim, the title of “God” in the same way as “Your Highness” would be title for a European king. Elohim is singular in its verb action while a plural word. It points us to what we know as the Trinity, 3 persons in One God. The names of God connected to His name YHWH, covered so far are Jireh, Provider, YHWH Ropheyka, Healer, YHWH Nissi, Banner, and YHWH Sabaoth, of the armies.

-Hebrew Names of God-

יהוה מקדשכם

Yahweh M’Kodeshkem  
 Yahweh who makes you holy  
 Yahweh who sanctifies you

This will be YHWH M’Kadeshkem, or YHWH who makes you all holy. Holy means belonging to God, someone or something that God could look at and say, that’s mine! God should look at you and I and say, “Mine and Mine alone!”



A father sanded, shaped, set up sails with fishing line, stained and finished a fine miniature sailboat for his boy. At the pond a breeze blew it off and someone at the other end ran off with it. The child grieved. His father saw it in a pawn shop. He told the owner that *he* made the boat, it was his son’s lost toy. The owner said he’d have to buy it to get it back. The father paid a good price and handed it to his overjoyed son who said, “It was mine once, lost, and now it’s mine twice!” That is how God sees us because of the price of Jesus’ blood that paid to make us *His and His alone*.

We’ll translate in context YHWH, M’Kadeshkem, from there, give definitions to holiness and sanctify, and look at how it works in real life. God’s name YHWH M’Kadeshkem says, “YHWH who is making you all holy, or sanctifies you all.”

The Biblical definition of holy means, belonging to God. God is asking us as a people, “Are you mine?” If so, we’ve made an agreement we are not our own and He can do with us as He wants to. We can do this the hard way or the easy way but it’s going to get done.” He will make us holy or *sanctify* us, the word that describes making someone or something holy. God wants us all to Himself because his love is unstoppable. God wants us only for Himself because nothing else is good enough for us.

Two great hymns explore God’s holiness. “Holy Holy Holy” has a line that says, “Holy, holy, holy, though the darkness hide thee, Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see. Only thou art holy, there is none besides Thee, perfect in power and love and purity.” And “Take Time to be Holy” William D. Longstaff in the last verse said, “Take time to be holy, be calm in thy soul, each thought and each motive beneath His control. Thus led by His Spirit to fountains of love, thou soon shall be fitted for service above.” It points out our own responsibility to seek after God who is Holy, so that we can be made Holy by Him.

Kari Jobe’s beautiful worship chorus draws us into His presence singing, “Holy holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come. With all creation I sing,

praise to the King of Kings, You are my everything and I will adore you.”

Psalms 96:9 says, “Worship the Lord in the splendor of Holiness!” Psalm 99:3, 5, and 9 cry out, “Holy is He!”

Separated from all He has created, set apart with no equal, He is unmatched in His purity, righteousness as His nature, unpolluted by any evil, contains no evil, wrong, crookedness, or corruption. His integrity and truthfulness are unbroken in eternity, before time ever was, and beyond the end of time. He is sacred to the thoughts we think, the meditations we muse, the words we speak, the actions we take. He is untouchable by anything that is evil. Then where do I fit? I’m none of those.

He has a family. Those who are his children are redeemed from sin but called to become Holy. It is only His touch that makes holy but He will touch all who reach out to Him. Every believer has within, the Spirit who IS Holy. It is our task to yield, surrender, and follow in thought word and deed the God whose touch turns the unclean into Holy.

That’s what holy, or sanctify is all about. By this name God is saying, I am the one making you mine, more and more. The more you are mine, the more you’re like me. But it’s not always easy. I asked my grandson if he thought his dad was too hard on him. He said, “Papa, he is hard, but he’s making me better, and that’s good!” We can say this name YHWH M’Kadeshkem says, “YHWH is making you all better!”

Let us agree to be made better, holy, sanctified, by our God. Can we say, “He’s making you all and me better!”

### **1 . Translation and Context when we agree for God to Make us Holy.**

This name, Yahweh M’Kadeshkem appears in Leviticus 20:7-8 as God makes holy by His word. Spend time in scripture (my statutes) and God will make you better. **“Consecrate yourselves, therefore, and be holy, for I am the LORD your God. Keep my statutes and do them; I am the LORD who sanctifies you.”** Jesus validated that holiness comes from being in God’s word, **“Sanctify them in the truth, your word is truth”** (John 17:17).

In Exodus 31:13 God makes holy when we set aside time for Him and live by His rest instead of being stressed. **“And the LORD said to Moses, ‘You are to speak to the people of Israel and say, ‘Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I, the LORD, sanctify you. You shall keep the Sabbath, because it is holy for you’”.**

In taking time to rest in God and worship Him will make us better. In this context God makes His people holy by them keeping Sabbath. Jesus made clear as Lord of the 7<sup>th</sup> day, or as He called Himself, **“Lord of the Sabbath,”** (Matthew 12:8) that He is the new Sabbath rest, as in Matthew 11:28, **“Come to me all who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest** (or Sabbath, the word means, *rest*). People may wonder, “If God blessed the 7<sup>th</sup> day and made it holy, in Christ, does he knock down the 7<sup>th</sup> day to the ground with the other 6 and un-blesses it and make it unholy?” Absolutely not! Jesus is our Sabbath so in Him, rather than knock down the 7<sup>th</sup>, He leaves it standing and picks up the other 6 so that in Jesus Christ, every day is blessed and Holy and our rest is in Him.

The direct translation in Hebrew for, **“I am the LORD who sanctifies you”** or **“I the LORD sanctify you”** has some aspects that aren’t really found in the English language. One is what is called verb voice. The verb is *kadash*. The verb voice in these

texts is for “sanctify” and is called the *piel*. It means that it makes the verb intense. For example it would be like going from, “I wet my shirt” to “I soaked and drenched my shirt.” In Hebrew, “wet,” “soaked,” and “drenched” would be just the word, “wet” but in the *piel* though the word is the same, it would change the meaning of wet to, “soaked,” “drenched.” God intensely is “really making us holy.”

It is also a participle, which is an “ing” word in English. In Hebrew it would literally be, “I am the Lord who is *making* you holy,” or “*sanctifying* you.”

And then it is a 2<sup>nd</sup> person plural which officially isn’t taught as proper English, though in the South it takes the form of *y’all* or in parts of the Northeast would be *yous* or if Spanish, *vosotros* or *ustedes*. Literally, Exodus 31:13 and Leviticus 20:8 say, “I, YHWH very seriously am making y’all or yous holy.’ God is serious and intense about making us better.

I am Yahweh

who is intensely making you all holy

M'Kadeshkem

- Piel = intense voice of the verb
- Participle= ongoing, the “ing” ending
- 2nd Person Plural= y'all, vosotros, ustedes

## 2 . Definitions of “Make Holy” and “Sanctify for when His people Agree to be Holy.”

I was once teaching my grandson (he was 3) that holy means belonging to God. That is a great definition. So I told Him that God is holy. He replied, “God belongs to Himself!” That was a greater definition. Sanctify means to make holy. When something or someone is holy or sanctified, it means separated and set apart and in that setting apart, God makes the person better. Sanctification or making holy is the process where God sets His people apart from sin and unrighteousness to His person and His presence. It is separation so that from being conformed to everyone else, one becomes unique, one who seems to be nothing special becomes very extraordinary, that which didn’t draw respect becomes sacred.

In heaven, worshipers declare that God is holy. This is shown in Isaiah 6:1-8 and Revelation 4:1-11 as the angelic beings that surround His throne and are in His presence cry out, “Holy Holy, Holy!”

Being guided by Isaiah 6:1-8, when a person encounters the holiness of God it brings deep shame and moral and spiritual desperation... as the man of God who was a great prophet screamed in desperation, **“And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”** (Isaiah 6:5). But then came the cleansing, **“your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for”** (Isaiah 6:7) and desire to serve Him **“Here I am! Send me!”** (Isaiah 6:8). God’s holiness inspires authentic worship and leads to service.



To illustrate the idea of setting apart, homes often have sanctified or holy china. Those are the dishes that are kept in a special place and used for special guests and occasions. You don’t use them for peanut butter sandwiches nor drop them carelessly into the sink or dishwasher, but

handle with care. The china is separated, set apart and special for a special purpose. God is making us all holy for His special purposes. Agree to be fine china, not just throwaway paper plates. He's making us better.

### 3 . What it means in Real Life to Agree to be Holy.

I've seen in the US and around the world how people try to be holy. One Romanian church said laughing in the service was unholy, for repentant people only cry. Another condemns neckties because they point down to hell and whoever uses them will go there also. One Brazilian church forbade beards because so many popular singers were bearded and had loose living lives. In one Romanian denomination pastors would never baptize a person wearing a wedding ring. Another U.S. Southern Pentecostal church condemns playing cards with 52 cards and 4 suits but allows *Rook* and *Uno*. Orthodox Jews turn away from cheeseburgers because if one mixes meat and dairy there is the chance to have boiled a baby goat in its mother's milk from the prohibition in Exodus 23:19 and Deuteronomy 14:21.

Real holiness isn't about do's and don't-s, but a heart that belongs totally to God. It is an inner experience first, but it will eventually show in the outer life by how one behaves, dresses, speaks, and what kind of entertainment one experiences. God separates His people from the world and it shows up in how a person lives, because God's making the person better. It starts with an inside cleansing and then a change in one's outside, visible lifestyle. When holiness is our heart's work, our lives become God's artwork. It's a beautiful thing.

It leaves 4 possibilities using the illustration of *taking or not taking a shower* and *wearing clean or dirty stinky clothes*. This is mostly borrowed from a sermon by Tony Evans (<https://www.lightsource.com/ministry/the-alternative/jehovah-mekadesh-the-lord-who-sanctifies-248059.html>).

**1 ) Showered but dirty clothes:** Privately clean, but publicly a stench=

Someone who is in Christ but walking worldly, still practicing words and deeds of the flesh.

**2 ) Clean clothes but un- showered:** Publicly clean, but a private stench. Clean clothes but no shower= Religious hypocrisy. Jesus addressed scribes and Pharisees as whitewashed tombs, beautiful outside but rotting flesh within.

**3 ) Un- showered and dirty clothes:** Publicly a stench, privately a stench also= without God and living wrong

**4 ) Showered with clean clothes:** Privately clean, publicly clean= God is at work on the inside of the person, but the person is making choices to live in a way that honors God.

If God's name says that it's He who makes us holy, why does 1 Peter 1:13-16 say to, be Holy and behave holy? It is not we who make ourselves holy, but we *can* choose to yield to God and make decisions to live a life that agrees with what is holy. But God's holiness is not achieved through human effort but by God's work.

The holiness of God is a challenge to the world's standards.

-When someone does you wrong, the world takes revenge, Holiness forgives.

-When stressed, the world medicates and intoxicates, Holiness is filled with the Holy Spirit.

-The world's morality says, "Do what you feel." Holiness is celibacy or a man and woman in marriage.

-Regarding discrimination, the world says you are good or bad based upon your race. Holiness looks at character and behavior.

-When it comes to personal growth, the world teaches self improvement by striving in human effort. Holiness accepts that God makes me better when I serve and follow Him.

The way a person *can* yield to God so God may sanctify the person is by renewing the mind for it is good, acceptable, and *holy* to do so (Romans 12:1-2). Also it is important to abstain from sexual immorality from 1 Thessalonians 4:3, ***“For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality.”***



A pig and a chicken were walking down the road. As they passed a church, they notice that a potluck charity breakfast was under way. Caught up in the spirit, the pig suggested to the chicken that they each make a contribution. “Great Idea!” the chicken cried. “Let’s offer them ham and eggs!” “Not so fast.” said the pig. “For you, that’s just a contribution, but for me, it’s a total commitment.”

To see God, holiness is absolutely necessary, ***“Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord”*** (Hebrews 12:14).

Holiness is a heart issue first of all, 1 Peter 3:15 in KJV, ***“But sanctify (make holy) the Lord God in your hearts.”***

The God who sanctifies, Yahweh M’Kadeshkem, is in the *piel* or intense voice. Why is God so intense about holiness? Hebrews 12:7-11, He is our Father. He wants to share with us who He is. He is holy but our holiness often involves pain. Jesus suffered and died for us to be holy. God disciplines us as loved children to make us holy. Coming to Jesus is the way to start on the road to where God is making us better. Jesus, as the 2nd person of God The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, as Yahweh who Sanctifies all of us, died to make us holy, and rose from the dead to prove He is making us better.

**God takes what is profane and insane/And makes a story full of glory**

**He takes what is common and boring/And lights it up with a colorful outpouring**

**God gives His name Yahweh M’Kadeshkem/The Lord making you all holy**

**Belonging to Him/only. God’s a real go-getter about making us better!**

**Sanctify means set apart/ it happens in the heart/Say yes yes yes to Yahweh/**

**M’Kadesh-kem/I will yield my soul to Him/Yahweh who sanctifies you always His**

**word is true/Holy people belong/to God alone/run from wrong/and come back**

**home/Holiness is not my hard work but saying yes to God's artwork- God’s a real go-getter about making us better!**

**Holy is what the world is not/Holy is the treasure that God has bought**

**With holy Jesus' precious blood/For we are wanted we are loved- God’s a real go-getter about making us better!**



This illustration is also borrowed from Tony Evans: A girl had an ice cream cone. Knowing her brother would ask for some she licked it all over so he’d know it was only for her, her own.

Then she ate it slowly and it got sweeter and sweeter with each lick. God makes us his own and makes holy so that we even like His holiness. And it just gets sweeter. The journey for holiness

starts by accepting Jesus Christ who died on the cross to make us holy and rose from the

dead to prove He can and will make us better if we let Him. You don't have to be better for Him to start, He will make you better because you give yourself to Him.

