

Cleaning Spots

by Wayne Goff

Recently I found myself cleaning up black spots on carpet while it was my turn to clean. I used **RESOLVE!** to clean up those spots and it worked beautifully. So I figured that my job was done. It turned out that once the big, black spots were gone, I then noticed quite a few smaller black spots that *seemed invisible* before! So out came the carpet cleaner again, and with a little “elbow grease” the job was finished. Except . . . well, you might guess it . . . tinier, lighter spots were visible. I just gave up because the only way to have perfect carpet is to replace it completely! Besides, most people won’t even notice those little spots.

Did you know that there is a correlation to the Lord’s teaching called **sanctification**? When a sinner has his sins washed away in the waters of baptism (Acts 22:16), he then is a clean, whole child of God. However, as that newborn Christian studies God’s Word, he begins to notice “**spots**” (sins) that he *continued* to commit that he did not realize were “**spots**” (sins). He then goes to his heavenly Father in penitent prayer and the Lord forgives him of his sins (1 John 1:7-9). Once again he goes forward, loving and serving the Lord, and as he grows in grace and knowledge (2 Peter 3:9), he sees others “**spots**” (sins) that he must eliminate. So he repeats the process of repentance and prayer. This process is called the “*sanctification*” of the sinner.

Notice Paul’s letter to the Thessalonians: “*For this is the will of God, **your sanctification**: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess **his own vessel in sanctification and honor**,*” (1 Thess. 4:3–4). So you see, the Christian is obligated to live a life which abstains from the sins of the flesh. As he learns God’s will more perfectly, identifies sin in his life, then he repents of them, asks God to forgive him, and goes on his way rejoicing. (Isn’t it amazing what thoughts cross your mind when you’re on your hands and knees scrubbing carpet?!) “**Sanctification**” means “moral purity, hallowed.”

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