

Nazarite Vow Compared to Sanctification

The Nazarite vow was a human-made or divinely appointed covenant **with** specific rules and visible signs of dedication. The vow was a **means to express holiness**.

Sanctification is the divine work of making believers holy in character and conduct, **without** dependence on human rules or rituals. Sanctification is the **state of being holy by God's grace**.

	Nazarite vow	Sanctification
1	A vow with divine rules that humans must obey: - abstaining from wine and grape products - uncut hair - avoiding contact with the dead	Sanctification is God's work of making believers holy: - positional sense of being set apart for God's purposes at conversion - progressive sense growing in holiness over time. It is not something we earn, but a gift of God's grace through the Holy Spirit
2	A voluntary or divinely appointed vow described in Numbers 6:1–21. It was a personal or family commitment to God, often for a set period (30–100 days) or for life (Samson – Judges 13-16, possibly John the Baptist Luke 1:15, Paul - Acts 18:18).	A divine work in the New Testament, primarily referring to the ongoing process of being made holy by the Holy Spirit , meaning “to make holy” or “to set apart.” It is not a human-made vow but a result of God's work in the believer's life.
3	A symbolic and practical dedication. The outward observances were meant to visibly represent inner separation from sin and dedication to God . It was a covenant pledge, not an automatic state of holiness.	A spiritual reality of being set apart for God's purposes. It is about internal transformation—being made holy in character and conduct through God's grace . It is not dependent on human rules or rituals.
4	Could be temporary or lifelong, depending on the vow. It applied to the person's life during the vow period , with specific behavioral rules.	An ongoing process in the Christian life , continuing from the moment of salvation until death. It is not a set period but a lifelong journey of growing in holiness.
5	Holiness was externally expressed through visible signs and obedience to God's laws . The vow itself was a means to achieve and maintain holiness.	Holiness is internally grounded in God's work . The believer is holy by God's making, not by their own rules or vows.
6	Emphasizes voluntary commitment and symbolic obedience to God's commands.	Emphasizes God's initiative and ongoing transformation in the believer's life.