

= Sanctified ( song ) =

" Sanctified " is a song by American hip hop recording artist Rick Ross , taken from his sixth studio album Mastermind ( 2014 ) . The song , produced by Kanye West , Mike Dean , and DJ Mustard , featuring guest appearances by rappers Kanye West and Big Sean . It was written by the aforementioned rappers and producers and Betty Wright sang the hook . " Sanctified " garnered critical acclaim from music critics , with most praising the production and Kanye West 's appearance . Despite not being released as a single , it is the highest charting song on Mastermind to date , debuting at number 25 on the UK R & B Chart , number 78 on the US Billboard Hot 100 and number 99 on the Canadian Hot 100 upon the album 's release .

= = Background and development = =

In February 2014 , a short preview of the song was released featuring the chorus , performed by Kanye West and Big Sean . Following the track list reveal for the album , on February 7 , 2014 , producer DJ Mustard revealed that he co -@ produced " Sanctified " with Kanye West . The song was also produced by Mike Dean , along with being written by William Roberts , Sean Anderson , Kanye West , and Dijon McFarlane . Betty Wright lent her vocal talent to the song during a late night studio session she did as a favor to DJ Khaled in order for him to meet a deadline . She recorded the hook in fifteen minutes while sitting on a sofa In the song , West raps about how he feels about people playing up his earlier works and dismiss who he is now , before saying that he 's not going to worry about it . Then later he says , " Wipe my forehead with a handkerchief and wash my sins in the blood of Jesus , People sayin ' , ' Ye , we need another Yeezus . " This being a reference to his experimental sixth studio album .

Rick Ross stated that the song was one of his favorites featured on Mastermind . He said , " ' Sanctified ' was most definitely one of the favorites . It 's because how much time ? Just watching Kanye put into this because it actually started as a sample . We did the sample maybe 10 different ways and then we ultimately went with a beautiful lady out of Miami , Ms. Betty Wright . She blessed us . So , just hearing that chorus . Just hearing the way it came out . All the time we put in it . It most definitely was dope . " Then after Ross ' sixth studio album Mastermind was released for free streaming on iTunes , the full version of " Sanctified " was released .

On March 6 , 2014 , Big Sean released his verse for the song that was cut from the album version of the song . Detailing the song 's recording process to MTV , Big Sean said , " Me and [ Kanye West ] was in the studio working on a whole bunch of ideas and [ Ross ] came in the conversation . And everybody know Rick Ross albums is events . So Ye pulled a track up , and I was telling him I think it 's a banger , it 's a smash , and he thought we should give it to Rozay . Me and him wrote our verses on the spot and we sent it to [ Ross ] and he did what he did to it . "

= = Live performance = =

On March 6 , 2014 , Rick Ross , Big Sean and Kanye West performed " Sanctified " on The Arsenio Hall Show backed by a live band . This was the first live performance of the song with all three rappers . West 's surprise appearance received a very large response from the audience .

= = Critical reception = =

" Sanctified " was met with critical acclaim from music critics , with most of them favoring West 's guest appearance than Ross himself . Mikael Wood of The Los Angeles Times called it the album 's best song . Kevin Ritchie of Now named it the album 's best song , praised Betty Wright 's performance singing the hook and Kanye West 's production . Nick Catucci of Entertainment Weekly and Michael Madden of Consequence of Sound both considered the song one of the album 's best . Kellin Miller of AllHipHop stated that it " has a strong case for an early song of the year nomination . " Dan Rys of XXL praised the song 's production and called West 's appearance as show stealing .

Jesse Cataldo of Slant Magazine said , " The album revives when Kanye West shows up to produce and guest on " Sanctified , " a revival song that pairs religious rebirth with monetary excess in a sort of frenzied ritual . "

Peter Cashmore of NME stated that it " is a glorious snail ? s @-@ pace gush of braggadocio . In fact , if the album had wrapped up after " Sanctified " , rather than dribbling to a close with the weedy " Walkin ? On Air " and " Thug Cry " , then Mastermind would be pretty much wall @-@ to @-@ wall bangers . " Craig Jenkins of Pitchfork Media gave this song the tag of " Best New Track " and stated , " ' Sanctified ' is an outstanding entry into Ross and Kanye ? s catalogue of stunners , but it never feels like Ross ' song . " Christopher Weingarten of Rolling Stone said , the song " shines with guest singer Betty Wright 's powerful gospel rasp and Kanye West confessing his sins on a featured verse . Ross , meanwhile , ends up talking designer clothes and fellatio . " Ken Capobianco of the Boston Globe said that " Kanye West turns his host into an afterthought on the fine , gospel @-@ influenced " Sanctified " .

Sheldon Pearce of HipHopDX stated , " While Kanye is transposing himself with Muhammad Ali and washing his sins in the blood of Jesus and boldly second guessing God ? s direct message the most grandiose thing Ross can muster is an ill @-@ fated ( and perhaps uninformed ) comparison to fallen Waco cult leader David Koresh . It feels tired and uninspired . " Nathan Slavik of DJBooth praised the song 's depth and said it featured " a rewind @-@ worthy verse from Kanye and a completely superfluous Big Sean . " Jesal Padania of RapReviews called the song riotously enjoyable , but said that Ross ' contribution did not add anything to the song .

Complex named it the second best song of the first @-@ half of 2014 . Writer Justin Charity commented saying , " While hardly their strongest verses of even the past couple years , Ross , Kanye , and Sean all come correct with the quotables here , from Sean 's opening mantra to Kanye 's aggressive confessional to post @-@ sex grilled cheese . The song 's weary gospel build @-@ up makes way for the minimal , rarefied ecstasy of that spaceship hangover melody . An arena confession I need to be shouting at the livest of live shows by year 's end : " All I wanted was a hundred million dollars and a bad bitch ! " Verdict : We need another Yeezus . " MySpace also named the song one of the 50 best songs of the same time period . A writer for them said , " ' Sanctified ' is a behemoth of a track , replete with an original vocal line from Bettye LaVette that plays like a gospel sample and an impeccable verse from ' Ye that makes up for Ross rapping , " Fellatio 's amazin ' , make grilled cheese for you , the best . " It 's simply the best gospel song masquerading as a rap jam this year . "

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits adapted from the liner notes of Mastermind .

Rick Ross ? lead vocals , songwriting

Kanye West ? guest vocals , songwriting , production

Betty Wright ? guest vocals

Big Sean ? guest vocals , songwriting

DJ Mustard ? co @-@ production / original production

Mike Dean ? production

= = Chart performance = =