

HOLINESS

Introduction

Holiness is one of God's basic characteristics. In reference to Him, the word denotes absolute perfection and purity. Only God is holy in Himself.

When the word is applied to persons or objects, it refers to what has been separated or set apart unto God. Since we have received the Holy Spirit of God, we have received power over sin, disease, and the devil -**Mark 16:15-18**. This power over sin enables us to live a life that is worthy of our name: Christians (Christ-like)

2 Timothy 3:16-17: *“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.”*

Ephesians 5:25-27:²⁵ *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*²⁶ *That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,*²⁷ *That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*

1 John 2:15-17:¹⁵ *“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”*¹⁶ *For all that is in the world, **the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life,** is not of the Father, but is of the world.”*¹⁷ *And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.”*

Why do I live a holy life?

- 1. We must pursue holiness in order to see the Lord**-This statement, found in Hebrews 12:14, is as true as John 3:3, which says, “Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” After the new birth, a conflict arises between the old lifestyle (the way of the flesh) and the new (the way of the Spirit). This battle is a battle for holiness, and by God's grace we can and must win it.
- 2. It is a command from God**- **John 8:10-11, Titus 2:11-12**
- 3. It is an admonishment**- **Romans 12:1-2, 2Corinthians 7:1**

How do I live a holy life?

1. The need for separation

God is holy and commands His people to be like Him -**I Peter 1:15-16**. Beginning with the sin of Adam and Eve, sin has separated humans from a holy God. By paying the penalty for our sins, Christ has restored the broken fellowship; but if we are to have communion with God, we must separate ourselves from the old life of sin. The choice is either separation from God or separation from sin. There are only two families—the family of God and the family of Satan, who is the god of this world system -**I John 3:10; II Corinthians 4:4**. There is no neutral ground. These two

families are distinct and separate. One is a holy family— a holy priesthood -**I Peter 2:9**. The other is an unholy family. The call for separation from this unholy world is clear and explicit. “Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord” -**II Corinthians 6:17**.

2. Dedication-a living sacrifice.

“Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind”-**Romans 12:1-2**. Holiness includes a sacrifice of our desires and our will. We must present ourselves in a manner that is acceptable to God. It is our reasonable duty to do so. We should act in a way that is acceptable to God, regardless of the sacrifice.

- **Holiness is imparted by the Holy Spirit.** We can only be holy by God’s grace. Sanctification, or separation from sin, begins with the hearing of the gospel and continues through faith, repentance, and water baptism in Jesus’ name; but it is accomplished primarily by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit -**I Peter 1:2**. Under the new covenant, God does not write His laws on tables of stone. But God always has laws; even in the Garden of Eden He had a law. Today God writes His laws on our hearts through faith by the Holy Spirit-**Jeremiah 31:33; Hebrews 10:15-17**. The Holy Spirit imparts holiness to us, transforming us from the inside out.
- **Holiness is taught by the Bible.** The Bible does not give specific answers to the countless situations that may face an individual. That is the purpose of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the ministry. The Bible does give basic guidelines that apply to men and women of all cultures, times, and situations. The Bible tells us what God likes and what He dislikes. It teaches us about the practices and attitudes that God accepts and those He expects of His people.-**2Timothy 3:15-17**
- **Holiness is taught by Spirit-filled pastors and teachers.** God has given the church pastors and teachers for the perfecting, or equipping, of the saints so that the church can grow to maturity -**Ephesians 4:11-15**. Pastors and teachers proclaim and explain God’s message so that believers can understand and obey scriptural teaching.

Dresses

1 Timothy 2:9-10: *“Likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works.”*

Deuteronomy 28:1-68: *“And if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God. Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit*

of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. ...”

Luke 16:19-31: *“There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. ...”*

Deuteronomy 22:5: *“A woman shall not wear a man's garment, nor shall a man put on a woman's cloak, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord your God.”*

Ornaments

Exodus 32:1-5: *“When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered themselves together to Aaron and said to him, “Up, make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.” So Aaron said to them, “Take off the rings of gold that are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.” So all the people took off the rings of gold that were in their ears and brought them to Aaron. And he received the gold from their hand and fashioned it with a graving tool and made a golden calf. And they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!” When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made proclamation and said, “Tomorrow shall be a feast to the Lord.”*

Exodus 33:5: *“For the Lord had said to Moses, “Say to the people of Israel, ‘You are a stiff-necked people; if for a single moment I should go up among you, I would consume you. So now take off your ornaments, that I may know what to do with you.’”*

1 Peter 3:1-6: *“Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct. Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands,...*”

Ezekiel 16:8-14: *“When I passed by you again and saw you, behold, you were at the age for love, and I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness; I made my vow to you and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Lord God, and you became mine. Then I bathed you with water and washed off your blood from you and anointed you with oil. I clothed you also with embroidered cloth and shod you with fine leather. I wrapped you in fine linen and covered you with silk. And I adorned you with ornaments and put bracelets on your wrists and a chain on your neck. And I put a ring on your nose and earrings in your ears and a beautiful crown on your head. ...”*

Luke 15:22: *“But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet.’”*

Genesis 35:2-4: *“So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, “Put away the foreign gods that are among you and purify yourselves and change your garments. Then let us arise and go up to Bethel, so that I may make there an altar to the God who answers me in the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone.” So they gave to Jacob all the foreign gods that they had, and the rings that were in their ears. Jacob hid them under the terebinth tree that was near Shechem.”*

Isaiah 3:16-24: *“Moreover the LORD saith, Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with stretched forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, and making a tinkling with their feet :¹⁷ Therefore the LORD will smite with a scab the crown of the head of the daughters of Zion, and the LORD will discover their secret parts.¹⁸ In that day the Lord will take away the bravery of their tinkling ornaments about their feet, and their cauls, and their round tires like the moon,¹⁹ The chains, and the bracelets, and the mufflers,²⁰ The bonnets, and the ornaments of the legs, and the headbands, and the tablets, and the earrings,²¹ The rings, and nose jewels,²² The changeable suits of apparel, and the mantles, and the wimples, and the crisping pins,²³ The glasses, and the fine linen, and the hoods, and the veils.²⁴ And it shall come to pass, that instead of sweet smell there shall be stink; and instead of a girdle a rent; and instead of well set hair baldness; and instead of a stomacher a girding of sackcloth; and burning instead of beauty.”*

Definition of terms

- Cauls: a close-fitting indoor hair cap/net worn by women
- Mufflers: scarf or veil worn around the neck for warmth
- Tablets-small, flat ornament or jewelry-**Exodus 35:22**
- Mantles: cloak, covering garment
- Wimples: curled hair; veil crimped
- Crisping pins: pins heated up to curl hair; curling iron
- Hoods: a cover of the head to prevent one being recognized
- Bonnets: a type of hat which women wore in the past to tie their chin and had a wide brim
- Vail: a covering in the face like a baby born with a vail

Perming, bleaching & tattooing

Leviticus 19:28: *“You shall not make any cuts on your body for the dead or tattoo yourselves: I am the Lord.”*

1 Corinthians 3:16-17: *“ Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?¹⁷ If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.”*

Ephesians 5:11: *“Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.”*

Romans 12:2: *“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”*

1 Timothy 2:10: *“But with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works.”*

1 Peter 2:8-10: *“And ‘A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.’ They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”*

2 Kings 9:30-34:³⁰ *“And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she painted her face, and tired her head, and looked out at a window.³¹ And as Jehu entered in at the gate, she said, Had Zimri peace, who slew his master?³² And he lifted up his face to the window, and said, Who is on my side? who? And there looked out to him two or three eunuchs.³³ And he said, Throw her down. So they threw her down: and some of her blood was sprinkled on the wall, and on the horses: and he trode her under foot.³⁴ And when he was come in, he did eat and drink, and said, Go, see now this cursed woman, and bury her: for she is a king’s daughter.”*

Romans 12:1-2: *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”*

Jeremiah 13:23: *“Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.”*

Isaiah 45:9-11: *“Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands?¹⁰ Woe unto him that saith unto his father, What begettest thou? or to the woman, What hast thou brought forth?¹¹ Thus saith the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker, Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me.”*