



Part 2 (Lesson 5)

Holy Living

Much has been said about holy living and the word holiness. Most of us knew before we ever became a Christian that holiness was supposed to be a part of the Christian's life. The difficult thing is to get a proper understanding of what holy living is. Many people have many different ideas and unfortunately many are not accurate at all in their understanding of this important issue. The word holy speaks of "belonging to God, being separated from that which is defiled and dedicated unto God". In this lesson we will strive to gain a better understanding of holiness and holy living.

I. Our Example and Our Goal

A. Think for a few moments about Jesus and from what you know about Him, describe Him (what He is like) in your own words. _____

B. Hebrews 12:1-2 - In this passage, what are we told to do? **(Lay aside every sin, run the race with endurance and set our eyes upon Jesus)**

1. What is Jesus said to be? **(The author and perfecter of faith)**

C. Who are we to be like? (1 Peter 1:14-16) **(God, our Father)**

D. Another example of holiness in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 teaches us to be **(Patient, kind, not jealous; to not brag and not be arrogant, to not act unbecomingly; to not seek my own, to not be provoked, to not take into account a wrong suffered, to not rejoice in unrighteousness, but to rejoice with the truth; to bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, and endure all things.)**

E. Note the description of the body of Christ in 1 Peter 2:9 **(a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession)**

F. Notice and record the exhortations in the following verses:

1. 2 Corinthians 7:1 **(We are to cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God)**

2. Ephesians 4:14-15 **(We are to not be swayed by false doctrines or deceit, but we are to speak the truth in love and grow up in all aspects into Christ)**

II. Holiness vs. Self-Righteousness

A. In Luke 11:39-43 why did Jesus rebuke these men? **(Because they were concerned about outer appearances and impressions and not with the condition of their hearts)**

B. Note the self-righteous attitude of the Pharisee in Luke 18:9-14. (All through the gospels we can see an example of self-righteousness in the scribes and Pharisees.)
(They were not humble - they loved to compare their outer righteousness to that of others - they took great pleasure in their outward deeds)

C. True holiness is shown in Colossians 1:15-22.

In verses 15-19 who is described? **(Jesus Christ, who is the head of the body of Christ)**

In verses 20-22 what do we see He will do for every believer? **(He has reconciled us to God and cleansed us so that He can present us holy and blameless before the Father, beyond reproach)**

D. True holiness lived out comes from the inside out through a loving relationship with Jesus Christ. Holiness does not bring a relationship with Jesus, a relationship with Jesus brings holiness. (Hebrews 12:2) (2 Corinthians 3:17-18) How are we changed?

(By focusing on Jesus Christ and seeing ourselves in comparison to Him. We are changed as we focus on who He is and becoming like Him in all our ways.)

E. True holiness lived out comes also through **(God's Word, the Bible)** (John 17:17)
As we submit to God we can be **(transformed)** through His Word (Romans 12:1-2).
Knowledge of the Lord Jesus is seen as important to holiness in 2 Peter 3:18 also. In this verse we are told to **(grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ)**

F. Holy living also comes about in our lives through discipline and trial. What does Hebrews 12:5-11 tell us about this? **(God disciplines all of His children for their good that they may share in His holiness. No discipline seems joyful at the time, but sorrowful. However, those trained by it experience the peaceful fruit of righteousness.)**

What does James 1:2-4 say about this? **(We should consider it joy when we experience trials – They produce endurance – Endurance makes us perfect and complete)**

G. Notice the character steps of holy living being formed into our lives (2 Peter 1:4-8)
(Note v. 4 – divine nature !) **(1. faith, 2. moral excellence, 3. knowledge, 4. self-control, 5. perseverance, 6. godliness, 7. brotherly kindness, 8. (agape) love – like 1 Cor. 13:4-7)**

H. True holiness is exhibited through **(love in action!)** (Galatians 5:6, 13-14)

III. Motives Leading to True Holy Living

A. 2 Corinthians 7:1; Proverbs 9:10; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 **(The fear of the Lord)**

B. 1 John 3:16; 1 John 4:10-11; 1 John 3:1-3 **(Following Christ's example of loving us and giving Himself up for us to save us)**

C. Think about Colossians 1:9-10. "We ask that you may be" - **(filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding)** "so that you will" **(walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God)**

True holy living comes from loving God, not from wanting to impress people!

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