



Global College of Ministry

EXPLORE

The Christian and Holiness

Jesus on the Inside, Working on the Outside

“And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation”
(Acts 2:40).

Immediately following the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost we are admonished to separate ourselves from this wicked generation. The preaching of the Gospel requires repentance, remission of sins, and the infilling of the Holy Spirit. This is followed by living a life of holiness and separation from the world as we wait on the soon coming of Jesus Christ. The writer of Hebrews encourages us to, “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14).

What is Holiness?

Holiness is considered to be separation from sin and the world, and to be dedicated to God, set apart for Him. Separation is moving away from worldliness and moving toward holiness. We are not to love the world, identify with it, become attached to its things, or participate in its sinful pleasures (James 4:4; James 1:27).

Holiness causes us to have the desire “To Be Like Jesus.” Our mind begins to think, “I want to be like Jesus.”

Jesus looks for holiness in our lives. In the days He walked on the earth, the Pharisees expressed their supposed holiness by keeping 248 commandments and 365 prohibitions. Jesus called us to a greater righteousness, living a life of purity and faith that goes beyond the bondage of legalism. Holiness cannot be measured by a long list of do’s and don’ts.

How Can We Identify Holiness and Worldliness?

How can you identify those things that are of the world and not take part?

“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. 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” (1 John 2:15-16).

How to Judge?

When we receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit we realize Jesus Christ comes inside. “Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27).

We can judge whether an activity is holy or not by asking the question, "What would Jesus do?" Since Jesus is living on the inside we must allow Him to influence each area of our lives. When He comes inside there are changes that must be made both on the inside and outside. We will not look the same. We will not act the same. We will not speak the same. Things become different.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

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

Our physical temple (body) is important since God dwells inside.

"I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; saith the Lord, and I will receive you" (2 Corinthians 6:16-17).

Lois Blanchard Eades has been circulating a poem that has stimulated Christians for years. It asks a question, "What would you do if Jesus came to your house?"

"When you saw Him coming,
Would you meet Him at the door,
With arms outstretched to welcome your Heavenly Visitor?
Or would you have to change your clothes before you let Him in?
Or hide some magazines, and put the Bible where they would have been?
Would you hide your worldly music and put some hymnbooks out?
Could you let Jesus right in, or would you rush about?
And I wonder if the Savior spent a day or two with you,
Would you go right on doing the things you always do?
Would you go right on saying the things you always say?
Would life for you continue as it does from day to day?
Would you take Jesus with you everywhere you'd planned to go?
Or would you maybe change your plans for just a day or so?
Would you be glad to have Him meet your closest friends?
Or would you sigh with great relief when He, at last was gone?
It might be interesting to know the things that you would do,
If Jesus came in person to spend some time with you."

The Bible presents general principles that permit us to determine the rightness or wrongness of actions (even those not mentioned in the Bible).

We can ask the following questions:

1. “Can it be done for the glory of God? (1 Corinthians 10:31).
2. Can it be done “in the name of the Lord Jesus” asking His blessing on the activity? (John 14:13).
3. Can it be done while sincerely giving thanks to God?
4. Is it a Christlike action? (1 John 2:6).
5. Will it weaken the sincere convictions of other Christians? (1 Corinthians 8:10-11).
6. Will it weaken my desire for spiritual things, God’s Word, and prayer? (Luke 8:14; Matthew 5:6).
7. Will it weaken or hinder my witness for Christ? (Matthew 5:13-16)” (Author Unknown).

From Holiness Back to Worldliness

In the Old Testament we find the story of Abraham’s nephew, Lot. As we study we can see the steps he made into worldliness. Sodom is a type of the world.

1. He looked at Sodom (Genesis 13:10).
2. He chose the land near Sodom (Genesis 13:11).
3. He pitched his tent toward Sodom (Genesis 13:12).
4. Moved into Sodom (Genesis 14:12).
5. Became like Sodom (Genesis 19).

Study Questions

1. According to Acts 2:40, what are we admonished to do? Explain. _____

2. What does Hebrews 12:14 encourage us to do? _____

3. What is "holiness"? _____

4. What is "separation"? _____

5. Holiness causes us to have a desire to be like who? _____

6. Pharisees felt they were doing "holiness" through keeping what? _____

7. How can we identify those things that are part of the world? _____

8. How can we judge an activity to see if it is good to take part in? _____

9. What are some of the general Bible principles that help us determine whether something is right or wrong? _____

10. What are the steps Lot took to move toward worldliness rather than separation? _____

Additional Notes

Holiness on the Outside

(by Sis. Linda Poitras)

“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. 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”

(Romans 12:1-2).

INTRODUCTION:

- ✓ Bring a basket of fruit (oranges are easiest to handle).
- ✓ Inspect fruit to see the ones good, clean, and ripe for eating.
- ✓ Introduce a piece of “bad” fruit (rotten, too ripe, scarred and ugly).
- ✓ Put the piece of “bad” fruit into the basket with the good, clean, and ripe ones.
- ✓ What will happen to the basket of fruit? Why?
 - Will the many ripe fruits change the one bad fruit, and why?
 - Will the one bad fruit change all the many good ones, and why?

How do we know that fruit is bad? There is a law of the harvest, which applies to everything that grows. If it is something we eat, the outward appearance will usually tell everything we need to know.

God’s children are compared to “the harvest” many times in the Bible (Matthew 9:37-38; Luke 10:2; John 4:35-38). We are also compared to “fruit.” These references are made to help us understand certain principles of growth. They help us understand about working in God’s vineyard, and dealing with bringing in the sheaves. What can we learn from this law of harvesting?

- ✓ How do you know when fruit is bad? (You can smell it, feel the soft spots, and see the brown spots.)
- ✓ Why do you not need to cut open the fruit to see if the inside is bad? (The outside will tell you everything you need to know about the inside.)
- ✓ Many good fruit will not change a bad fruit.
- ✓ One bad fruit will spoil a whole basket of good ones.
- ✓ The fruit closest to the bad one will spoil first.
- ✓ Given enough time, all the fruit in the same basket will be spoiled by one bad fruit.
- ✓ How do you keep the bad fruit from spoiling the good ones? (You have to take the bad fruit out of the basket.)

What Bible principles agree with this law of the harvest?

1. “A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump” - 1 Corinthians 5:6; Exodus 13:7; Mark 8:15; and Galatians 5:7-9

2. “Come out from among them and be ye separate” – 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Isaiah 52:11; Revelation 18:4

These principles are applied to all of life. They are a standard for living life God’s way, and have been a part of His plan for His chosen people since the beginning. God’s people have always been different. There has always been a separation between those who followed Christ, and the rest of the world. Being His chosen has always shown itself on the outward appearance. (*If you know it, teach and sing the chorus “Jesus on the Inside, Working on the Outside.”*)

Romans 12:1-2 clearly states that our body is to be given to God as a living sacrifice. As we daily go about our business, we are giving our selves – the actual physical body – to God’s plan and purpose. To do that, we must be as careful as they were in the Old Testament about the sacrifices they brought to the Tabernacle. That makes it very important to present a proper sacrifice – without spot or blemish on the outside too. These verses remind us of some things God requires from his “sacrifices.” (Have these Scripture references written on scraps of paper. Call volunteers to come forward to read from each different passage. Discuss – and write on a board if available – what each passage says about standards of holiness.)

- ✓ 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 – Separation from the world and unclean things is necessary for God to be our Father.
- ✓ 2 Corinthians 7:1 – We must cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness because we fear God.
- ✓ 1 Timothy 2:8-10 – Men need holy hands – without wrath and doubting. Women should dress modestly (not vain or conceited, aware of limitations), with shamefacedness and sobriety (temperate in the use of all sources of pleasure), not with costly things that would hinder her ability to help the poor, or those less fortunate.
- ✓ 1 Peter 3:1-6 – Speaks of the submission of a woman to her own husband, shown in her outward appearance. These verses refer to plaiting the hair and wearing of gold as not good.
- ✓ 1 Corinthians 11:13-15 – The main sign of submission in a woman is her uncut hair. This is so important, the angels watch her, looking especially for this one thing.
- ✓ Deuteronomy 22:5 – Men and women must wear clothes that are for their own sex. Another way of saying this is, our clothes must make people think we are either a girl or a boy. If we do not, it is an abomination to God. (That means he hates it.)

Throughout history, what people wear is a message about who they are, what job they do, and how much money they have. Since dress gives a message, we must be sure we are sending the right message to anyone who sees us.

It is necessary to base all doctrines of the church on Bible truths – even the doctrine of standards for what we wear and how we look. The verses used in this lesson are for people who were not familiar with God’s laws. They needed answers to questions about how to live

victorious every day. We may not live in Bible times, but we certainly live in the same worldly environment.

- ✓ Call on volunteer wearing military uniform (if you can get someone to do this) to come forward.
- ✓ Ask if anyone knows who this person is.
- ✓ What is their job?
- ✓ What can you tell by the uniform they are wearing about the work they do?
- ✓ List some of the things that give you information, just by being a part of the uniform.
- ✓ Ask the one dressed in uniform some simple questions:
 - How long have you been working on this particular job?
 - What are some of the privileges this uniform gives you?
 - What are some of the things required when wearing a uniform?

Never forget the importance
of your Christian uniform,
as you walk in His light.

(Sing "Walking in the Light" while marching around the room.)

Walking in the Light

It is a great thing to serve the Lord,
It is a great thing to serve the Lord,
It is a great thing to serve the Lord,
Walking in the light of God.

Ohhh, walk, walk, walk, walk, walking in the light;
Ohhh, walk, walk, walk, walk, walking in the light;
Walking in the light of God.

Study Questions

1. Why are God's children compared to "the harvest" and "fruit" so many times in the Bible? (Support your answer with Scripture.) _____

2. List seven (7) things we can learn from the law of harvesting.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____

7) _____

3. List two (2) Bible principles that agree with this law of the harvest. Support each with Scripture.

1) _____

2) _____

4. In the space provided, write what each passage says about standards of holiness.

1) Deuteronomy 22:5 _____

2) 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 _____

3) 1 Corinthians 11:13-15 _____

4) 1 Timothy 2:8-10 _____

5) 1 Peter 3:1-6 _____

6) 2 Corinthians 7:1 _____

5. List the three (3) messages sent by what people wear (how they dress).

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

6. Explain what Romans 12:1-2 has to do with "holiness on the outside." _____

Ornaments on a Masterpiece?

(by Sis. Linda Poitras)

“I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well”
(Psalm 139:14).

INTRODUCTION – (Use demonstration of flower wearing earrings and necklace. Thanks to Bro. David Reynolds for the idea.)

- ✓ Show flower in its original God-given design.
- ✓ Poke holes in the petals and add earrings.
- ✓ Drape necklace around flower petals.
- ✓ Ask students if this makes the flower more beautiful.
- ✓ Call for volunteer to read Matthew 6:28-30.
- ✓ Call for a different volunteer to read Matthew 6:28-30 from a different translation (*NLT* or *NIV*).
- ✓ Ask students why they feel a need to wear jewelry.
- ✓ Where did the idea come from that women need help to be beautiful?
- ✓ Why are ornaments needed on God’s special creation?
- ✓ Call for volunteer to read Genesis 1:27.
- ✓ Why do women, made in the image of God, need ornaments to be beautiful?

BIBLE LESSON

Holiness is defined basically as “separation.” This separation was away from sin and unto God.

- 1) In the Old Testament, God’s chosen people were:
 - Different from other nations – Exodus 23:24
 - Different from other religions – Jeremiah 51:45
 - Holy unto God
- 2) In the New Testament, God’s chosen people were:
 - Separated from sin and lack of repentance – 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15
 - Separated from compromise and worldly things – 2 Timothy 3:1-5
 - Separated from false doctrines – Galatians 1:8-10; Matthew 7:15-20
- 3) God’s way involves separation, but also many blessings.
- 4) 2 Corinthians 6:16-18 – “And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”

- 5) 2 Corinthians 7:1 – “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

The story is told of a man who died and went to heaven. As St. Peter was showing him around, he noticed an extremely large building, something like a warehouse. “What is that?” the man asked. Peter replied, “You do not want to know.” “Yes I do,” replied the man. “No you don’t,” said Peter. This went on for some time until finally Peter said, “Okay, I will show you.” He took the man inside where there were rows upon rows of shelves, all full of boxes, stacked so high you could not see the top. As they walked down the aisles, the man noticed there were names written on each box. “Is my name here?” he asked excitedly. “Yes,” said Peter, “but you do not want to see inside that box.” “Oh yes I do!” exclaimed the man. He hurried to find his name in the alphabetical order of shelves and boxes. When he took down his box and opened it, there was a list so long he could not read it all of many wonderful things. “What is this? He asked. Peter replied, “I told you not to look. This is a list of all the good things God wanted to give you, but couldn’t.” “Why not,” Asked the man. “Because you would not allow Him to work His will in your life,” said Peter. “You just wouldn’t let Him do for you what He wanted to. You had to do it all your way.”

If we want to claim God’s promises, we have a job to do. A life of separation and holiness is required to draw closer to God. God will not force us to separate ourselves, but we will give up these things if we choose to remain like the world:

- ✓ Our Christian joy – John 15:11
- ✓ God’s divine protection – John 17:12, 14-15
- ✓ Answered prayers – John 15:7, 16; Proverbs 28:9
- ✓ Our sense of the fatherly presence of God – John 14:21, 23

CONCLUSION

Exodus 32:1-35 tells an interesting story. Chapter 32 gives the account of Israel’s great sin with the golden calf. Aaron took the golden earrings that were in their ears – men, women, boys, and girls (Exodus 32:1-3) – and made a graven image of a cow for them to worship.

When Moses came down the mountain, his anger was terrible. It was nothing, however, compared to God’s anger. These were the people He had just miraculously delivered from slavery and Pharaoh’s army. Now they are bowing down to something made with their own hands. God was so vexed, He called for anyone loyal to Him to slay everyone who did not want to follow Him. The Levites separated themselves, and killed thousands of their brothers and friends. On top of that, God sent a terrible plague and thousands more died.

Chapter 33 is a renewal of the covenant God made with Abraham years before. It required a special dedication to God’s ways. God was deciding what to do with these stiffnecked people,

and he demanded they remove their ornaments (Exodus 33:1-6). This was an outward sign of their dedication to God, and desire to please Him. According to Exodus 33:6, the Israelites did not wear ornaments again after this time.

There are several passages that mention ornaments after Exodus 33:6, but not in a positive way. The people of Israel were asked by God to remove them to prove their loyalty to Him, and they never again put them back on – unless they were backslidden.

1) Two of the prophets refer to backslidden Israel like a woman who tries to make herself beautiful for lovers (idol gods):

- ✓ Jeremiah 4:30
- ✓ Ezekiel 23:40

2) Queen Jezebel is another great example of a painted face and ornaments – used for the purpose of enticing her enemies (2 Kings 9:30).

3) The Great Harlot of Revelation wears every possible ornamentation – Revelation 17:4

On the other hand, God's chosen people, His bride (the church) and women worthy of emulation in the Bible are described not wearing ornaments:

1) Esther 2:13-15

2) The Bride of Christ – Revelation 19:7-8

3) Godly Women – 1 Timothy 2:9-10

4) Godly Wives – 1 Peter 3:1-6

Solomon, that wisest of men (next to Jesus) described the most special woman of all. She is a "virtuous woman" and her qualities are many. One thing is never mentioned, however, and that is ornaments. She does not require them. They would, in fact, take away from her true beauty which comes from the inside: "*Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised*" (Proverbs 31:30).

God made everything beautiful in His time (Ecclesiastes 3:11), and there is no need for ornamentation and paint to enhance His work. We only need to take care of what God has blessed us with, keep it clean and allow His beauty to shine forth from within (Psalm 149:4). The beauty that comes from closeness to God, is a reflection of His holiness. You cannot buy that beauty in a bottle or with all the gold in the world.

"Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness"
(Psalm 29:2).

"Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts. O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth"
(Psalm 96:8-9).

Study Questions

1. Write Matthew 6:28-30 on the lines provided. _____

2. What is the basic definition of "holiness?" _____

3. As related to "holiness" what three (3) things were distinctive to God's chosen people in the Old Testament? (Support with Scripture when possible.)
1) _____
2) _____
3) _____

4. As related to "holiness" what three (3) things were distinctive to God's chosen people in the New Testament? (Support with Scripture when possible.)
1) _____
2) _____
3) _____

5. What four (4) things will we give up if we choose to remain like the world? (Support your answers with Scripture.)
1) _____
2) _____
3) _____
4) _____

6. List two (2) of the terrible consequences of Israel's sin with the worship of the golden calf.
1) _____

2) _____

7. Give a brief explanation of Exodus 33:1-6 as a renewal of the covenant God made with Abraham years before. _____

8. List and briefly explain three passages that mention the wearing of ornaments after Exodus 33:6.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

9. List (with Scripture reference) the four examples of God’s chosen people, His bride (the church) and women worthy of emulation in the Bible who are NOT wearing ornaments.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

Additional Notes

The Path to Righteousness – A “Holiness” Highway

(Adapted from *Path to Righteousness* by Linda Poitras)

“And an highway shall be there, and a way; and it shall be called the way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those; the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein” (Isaiah 35:8).

Introduction

Now that we understand the plan of salvation and have obeyed it, we are no longer searching for the *Path TO Righteousness*. We can walk on the *Path OF Righteousness*.

It is no simple thing to follow the *Path of Righteousness*, living righteously in an unrighteous world. The child of God must appear blameless and harmless in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation. “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:11-13).

We must:

- Deny ungodliness (a pagan-like disregard of God in thought and action)
- Deny worldly lusts (a strong desire and passion for things of this present world)
- Live soberly (seriously considering the laws/commands of God’s Word)
- Live righteously (doing things in a right way as identified by the Bible)
- Live godly (according to the plan of God)

All should be done in this present world, as we carefully prepare and look for the return of our Savior. What is the thing that teaches us all this? The Grace of God. God has equipped us so we will be able to do it with His salvation and grace. His Spirit in us gives us hope: “To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27).

What is this righteousness, this holiness we need before we shall see God? *The Webster’s Encyclopedic Dictionary* defines holiness as:

- 1) The quality or state of being dedicated for spiritual use.
- 2) The state of being spiritually perfect or pure, untainted by evil or sin.

This holiness refers to separation from the world and sin, and dedication to God.

What is the Purpose of Holiness?

There are three basic purposes for a life of holiness:

- 1) To please God (1 Peter 2:9),
- 2) To communicate Christ to others (Matthew 5:16; 2 Corinthians 3:2-3), and
- 3) To benefit ourselves both now and in eternity (Hebrews 12:14).

Why is Holiness Necessary?

Since the Lord God is holy and perfect, He demands holiness and perfection from all who come to Him.

Old Testament Call To Holiness

- 📖 He said to Abraham in Genesis 17:16: *“I am the Almighty God; walk before me and be thou perfect.”* To the children of Israel after they had come out of Egypt (a type of sin and slavery) He demanded holiness of them saying: *“Sanctify yourselves therefore and be ye holy; for I am the Lord your God”* (Leviticus 20:7).
- 📖 In the Old Testament, after God had reaffirmed His covenant with Abraham and the children of Israel, He decided to live among His people.
 - He demanded an offering (a sacrifice) from the people and a sanctuary (a holy place) for Him to dwell in (Exodus 25:1-2, 8-9).
 - Moses prepared this sanctuary according to the pattern and materials God had revealed to him so God could live among His people (Exodus 40:33-35).
 - During their wandering in the wilderness, the Lord again spoke of dwelling with His people, this time not in the tabernacle or in the temple made by hands as in King Solomon’s day (1 Kings 8:10-11; 2 Chronicles 7:15-16), but with human flesh and using the human body as His temple (Joel 2:28).

New Testament Call to Holiness

- 📖 In Acts 17:24, Paul preached to the people of Athens on Mars Hill, and he said this about the temple dwelling place of God: *“God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that He is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands.”*
- 📖 In the Old Testament, when God dwelt among the children of Israel, He gave Moses the plan for building the Tabernacle. Today, in the building not made with hands, God still has a plan – just any old way will not do. Paul, in his writings to the church at Corinth, said: *“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are”* (1 Corinthians 3:16-17).
- 📖 Peter, in his epistle to the church in general, spoke of this also: *“But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy”* (1 Peter 1:15-16).

The preparation of the body as a sanctuary or temple, and the dedicating of it for the Lord's use, is what the Bible calls "holiness."

Preparation of the Body

It was important in the construction of the Tabernacle that the outer covering was properly arranged. This made it possible for the inner furniture to fulfill God's intended purpose.

It is the same with the preparation of the body as God's dwelling place: both inward and outward preparation is necessary. The Psalmist David understood this when he wrote: *"Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands and a pure heart, who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation"* (Psalm 24:3-5).

Inward Preparation – This involves a change of heart, or repentance.

- ☞ It is forsaking sin and never going back to it again. *"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon"* (Isaiah 55:7).
- ☞ It is giving oneself to baptism in Jesus' name for the washing away of one's sins: *"To him gave all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins"* (Acts 10:43).
- ☞ It is yielding to God's Spirit as He comes to live in our hearts: *"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin"* (Romans 6:3-6).
- ☞ Paul in his letter to the church at Ephesus had this to say: *"That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 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"* (Ephesians 5:26-27).

With repentance and baptism, the inner part of the body is prepared as God's dwelling place. The Holy Ghost, by faith, can now reside in this temple.

"That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:16-19).

But holiness does not end here.

Outward Preparation – We all like to eat delicious food, prepared and arranged beautifully so that we enjoy looking at it before we eat it. Who will eat a beautiful meal that is served out of a chamber pot (toilet bowl)?

The body, as the temple of God, should be seen in a way that reveals the attitude of God. Thus, the outward preparation of the body is important. This outward preparation involves the transformation of the individual from his old ways of life. Paul said: *“I beseech (beg) 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. 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”* (Romans 12:1-2).

What is “this world” that we should not conform to? The Apostle John, in his first epistle (1 John 2:16) defines the world as:

- The lust of the flesh
- The lust of the eye
- The pride of life

John made it a point to emphasize that whoever has his love in these things has no love of God in him. *“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. 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. And the world passeth away; and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever”* (1 John 2:15-17).

Given these Scriptures and an understanding that friendship with the “world” is enmity (hatred) of God (James 4:4), there are seven questions you should ask yourself before you begin to do, say, think or enjoy any questionable activity:

- 📖 Can it be done for the glory of God? (1 Corinthians 10:31).
- 📖 Can it be done “in the name of the Lord Jesus” asking His blessing on the activity? (John 14:13).
- 📖 Can it be done while sincerely giving thanks to God?
- 📖 Is it a Christ-like action? (1 John 2:6).
- 📖 Will it weaken the sincere convictions of other Christians? (1 Corinthians 8:1).
- 📖 Will it weaken my desire for spiritual things, such as God’s Word and prayer? (Luke 8:14; Matthew 5:6).
- 📖 Will it weaken or hinder my witness for Christ? (Matthew 5:13-16).

The Reason for Holiness Standards – Standards are supposed to protect us in one or more of these areas. A standard is a fixed rule or measure that is established by authority. God has never wanted His people to be frustrated about what will or will not please Him. So He has

given us some biblical principles which have been applied throughout the centuries of time and still apply today.

- 📖 We have already learned that in this present day, our bodies are the temple of the Lord. What are we supposed to do with His temple? Paul wrote the Corinthian church in 2 Corinthians 6:16-18; 7:1 and explained it like this: *“And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”*
- 📖 The life of holiness is a continual striving for perfection (Philippians 3:12-17). No one is perfect. But we are holy if we:
 - Place our faith in Christ,
 - Live a repented life according to God’s Word, and
 - Seek to grow progressively more Christ-like by the power of the indwelling Spirit.

God expects continued growth in grace and knowledge and increasing production of spiritual fruit (2 Peter 3:18).

- 📖 We may not be perfect, but we are supposed to be walking on a road that leads to heaven – a straight and narrow, holy road. The prophet Isaiah said: *“And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called the way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein”* (Isaiah 35:8).

Conclusion

Why is “Path of Righteousness” a special path? It is the road where God walks, leading us to heaven, our eternal home. God knew we wouldn’t be able to walk a holy walk without His help, so He provided all we need in the Comforter He sent us – that Comforter who works inside of us to make us holy, like He is.

Jesus on the inside
working on the outside!

Study Questions

1. According to Titus 2:11-13, what four (4) things must we do to walk on the Path of Righteousness?

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

2. What one (1) thing teaches us all of this about life in this present world? _____

3. How does *Webster's Encyclopedic Dictionary* define holiness? _____

4. This holiness refers to _____ from the world and _____, and
_____ TO _____.

5. List (with Scripture reference) the three (3) basic purposes for a life of holiness.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

6. Why is holiness necessary? _____

7. Quote the Scripture (with reference) for each of the following examples of God's call to holiness as found in the Old Testament.

1) God said to Abraham: _____

2) God said to the children of Israel after they had come out of Egypt (a type of sin and slavery): _____

3) During their wandering in the wilderness, the Lord again spoke of dwelling with His people, this time not in the tabernacle or in the temple made by hand as in King Solomon's Day, but with human flesh and using the human body as his temple: _____

8. Quote the Scripture (with reference) for each of the following examples of the New Testament's call to holiness.

1) Paul, in his writings to the church at Corinth, said: _____

2) Peter, in his epistle to the church in general, spoke of this also: _____

9. Explain what David was talking about in Psalm 24:3-5. _____

10. List (with Scripture reference) the three (3) things involved in inward preparation of the body as God's dwelling place.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

11. The outward preparation of the body (as God's dwelling place) involves _____ of the individual from his old _____ of _____.

12. List the three (3) things defined in 1 John 2:16 as "this world."

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

13. List the seven (7) questions you should ask yourself before you begin to do, say, think or enjoy anything. Support your answer with Scripture if possible.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

6) _____

7) _____

14. Explain and define holiness standards. _____

15. Give a brief explanation for how each of the following verses provide reasons for a need of holiness standards.

1) Isaiah 35:8 _____

2) 2 Corinthians 6:16-18; 7:1 _____

3) Philippians 3:12-17 _____

4) 2 Peter 3:18 _____

Additional Notes

Practicing Holiness

(Adapted from *Path to Righteousness* by Linda Poitras)

“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord”
(Hebrews 12:14).

Introduction

According to *The New Life Study Bible*, after we have God’s Spirit in us, with the resulting powerful revelation of God’s glory and majesty, the way of holiness becomes so clear that even a fool could not miss it. All the redeemed should then walk in complete holiness. Do we claim to be redeemed? Are we walking in this “Way of Holiness?” After we get on this “highway” we must stay on it – no detours allowed.

It is impossible to make a list of all the things a person could be tempted to do that would take him off this “highway.” Anything that could be labeled “worldly” has already been shown to be wrong. Let us look at some of the “standards of holiness” that are given for our protection, with God’s Word and His Spirit as the source of warning against them.

Adorning the Temple

The Bible has much to say about the adornment of God’s temple. In the Old Testament, the Tabernacle had to follow specific guidelines laid down by God, given to Moses (His servant) and carried out by the people (his children, the Israelites). There were instructions for every part of the adornment of the physical temple, and even the priests who officiated in that temple (Exodus 35-40).

God was particular that His instructions were followed exactly for both. In Leviticus 8, Moses brought Aaron and his sons before the Tabernacle, and gave them the clothes God had said they should wear. He also washed them according to the instructions of the Lord. In the tenth chapter of that same book, two of Aaron’s sons decided they would do something their way, rather than as God had commanded. Remember this was under the Law, and so God immediately sent fire to consume them. They died right there. It did not matter that they were sons of the high priest. It did not matter that they were especially clothed to perform God’s work in His temple. Disobedience brought immediate death.

Does this tell you anything about how serious God is about His instructions? Even something so trivial as a little bit of incense not according to His instructions? God cares! He notices what you are doing, and He will ask you to give an account of how you have followed His instructions on the judgment day (Romans 2:4-7). This is the day of grace, but grace will not help you on that day.

God's plan for man and His "temple" began in the Garden of Eden and has continued up until today. God made the first clothes, and He expects us to take note (Genesis 3:21).

God commands a covering because of the built-in awareness in the human conscience of the difference between men and women (Genesis 3:7-10). The clothes made by Adam and Eve were not correct or sufficient, so God made them better ones. They made clothes of fig leaves – easily spoiled, not difficult to see through, not comfortable, and pieced together with possible holes (have you ever tried sewing leaves together?). In short, the clothes Adam and Eve made were not good. But when God began to sew, He did it right. He took material that would not tear, was all in one piece, too thick to see through, and durable enough to last. God knows more about what we need than we do.

After this first clothing creation, God did not make any more clothes in the Old Testament. However, He did make sure the Israelites were able to keep wearing the clothes and shoes they had on when they left Egypt (Deuteronomy 29:5). God kept His people properly clothed. David, in some of his writings, along with his son Solomon, had some instructions about adornment:

- ☞ Clothing should identify with the godly (Psalm 1:1).
- ☞ Clothing should be attractive (Proverbs 31:21-22, 24).

What do we read in the New Testament as instructions given to God's people, His temple of clay? Paul and other church leaders had many instructions to give the churches. It was not just the Old Testament writers who spoke out.

- ☞ Clothing should be modest (1 Timothy 2:9).
- ☞ Clothing should be moderate (1 Timothy 2:9, 15; Philippians 4:5).
- ☞ Clothing should not be costly (Matthew 6:25, 30-33).
- ☞ Clothing should not confuse the sexes (Deuteronomy 22:5; 1 Corinthians 6:9).

These Scriptures let us know that God still cares about the adornment of His temple. The writer of Revelation paints us a picture of what the Bride of Christ will look like at His appearing (Revelation 19:7-8). She is dressed without ornaments, jewelry, or paint.

According to the *Accelerated Bible Curriculum – Lesson 7*, the custom of wearing ornaments and jewelry is almost as old as man. The earliest rings known are those found in the tombs of ancient Egypt.

- It is believed that wearing jewelry was more the result of a desire to secure various openings of the human body against the entrance of evil spirits than purely for female vanity (*Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics*).
- *Encyclopedia Britannica* tells us that the symbolic significance of the ring is based on its being considered substantially a "magic circle."
- In early times, it may be said that every ornament was an amulet. From the wearing of amulets, the use of ordinary jewelry originated (*Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics*).

- Since jewelry and ornaments had such an early beginning in human history, it is not surprising to find them referred to in the first book of the Bible. After God told Jacob to return to Bethel and build Him an altar, Jacob told all the members of his household to be clean and change their garments and to put away strange gods (Genesis 35:2,4). So what did they do? They gave him all their strange gods, and all their earrings, and Jacob hid them under the oak by Shechem. The initial step in turning to God through consecration and prayer was to remove jewelry.
- In Exodus 33:1-11, we read of how the children of Israel left Egypt with many golden and silver ornaments, given to them by their Egyptian neighbors. However, God was going to use them for His Tabernacle. The Israelites made a golden calf from some of these same earrings. When God required the removal of ornaments for a consecration unto Him, the Israelites finally obeyed, and God accepted their consecration and self-denial. This attitude still touches the heart of God.
- The book of Revelation speaks of the harlot church and makes a contrast between her and the Lamb's wife: *"And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication"* (Revelation 17:4).
- The picture of the Bride of Christ is the opposite: *"...and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints"* (Revelation 19:7-8). Christ's bride will be composed of Spirit-filled believers who have carefully and consistently obeyed the teachings of God's Word on godly dress and adornment.

Why do we take chances and believe that the grace of God will save us from His wrath on the judgment day? We may not be like Nadab and Abihu (Aaron's sons) who offered "strange fire" unto the Lord when He had given them explicit instructions. But, when we disobey Him about the way we keep His temple, we are asking for the same punishment – the fire of His wrath.

The adornment God most appreciates is a meek and quiet spirit, humility, modesty, moderation, godliness, and good works (1 Peter 3:3-5). Relics from our old life of sin belong to the kingdom of this world, and simply take away from the Christian's testimony. They distract attention from the adorning of the beautiful Spirit of God. Let us follow God's instructions and wear His adornment.

A "Covering" for the Temple

The Tabernacle in the wilderness had a special covering which was made with several different materials and fashioned after the direct order of God (Exodus 36). The curtains, doors, and the wall around the Tabernacle on the outside had to be according to these instructions. God is definitely a God of details!

When God decided to make our bodies His dwelling place, He again had a definite and specific plan. He did not leave it to chance. God had already designed the covering He meant for us to

use for His temple. This plan is revealed to us in Paul's writings to the church at Corinth in 1 Corinthians 11:3-16.

There is much controversy about these instructions, even as in the Old Testament some did not believe it was necessary to follow God's instructions with regard to the Tabernacle. Clearly, 1 Corinthians 11:15 speaks of the God-given covering of a woman. This chapter also clearly speaks of the reason why a man should not have his head covered.

The length of one's hair is not merely a matter of style. It has a much deeper significance, and even involves a person's attitude toward God. That is why it is so important that we understand what Paul was teaching, so we can know God's plan for the covering of His temple.

A Sign of Submission to Authority

- 📖 1 Corinthians 11:3 – Christ (the human side of Jesus) was glad to submit to the Father (the Spirit who dwelled within Him). He was willing to follow God's plan, even unto death (Philippians 2:8).
- 📖 The man must submit himself to Christ.
- 📖 The woman is to subject herself to the man, her own husband, and through the man, to Christ. When a woman chooses the man she will marry, she chooses the man she will obey. This submission is not to every man, but to her own husband (Ephesians 5:22; Colossians 3:18; 1 Peter 3:1).

The key here is that it is not difficult for a woman to submit to the man she has chosen as her leader, since she knows he is following Christ. The problem comes when a man is chosen who, according to God's Word, is supposed to be our "head," and we know he is not submitting to the Lordship of Christ. Then, we are asking for trouble, because we are choosing to submit to someone who is not in submission to authority. This will only bring pain. Since the Garden of Eden, women have had problems discerning spiritual things. 1 Timothy 2:13-14 tells us: *"For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression."* A woman's uncut hair is a symbol of the "covering" of a strong, godly man who is himself submitted to his authority – God.

Because of the Angels

1 Corinthians 11:10 tells us a woman should have power (authority) on her head *"because of the angels."* Why does it matter what the angels think? Why are they watching us? Three reasons are:

- 📖 We know that angels are curious about the experience of the Holy Ghost (1 Peter 1:12).
- 📖 Because of pride and rebellion, many angels were cast out of heaven along with their leader, Lucifer. So, angels watch to see if women will also be rebellious, or if they will wear the mark of consecration, submission, and power. Since the church is referred to as a woman, women show the angels how submissive the church is to Christ, the head of the church. Their uncut hair is a symbol of submission to authority.

📖 Believers (both men and women) shall judge angels (1 Corinthians 6:3). If someday we shall judge angels for their lack of submission to God's authority, we must presently show submission by obeying God's Word concerning the hair question.

A Woman's Hair is Not to Be Shorn or Shaven

1 Corinthians 11:5-6 says that when a woman prays or prophesies, her head must be covered, unless she wants to be disgraced or shamed. Your hair is given to you for a covering (1 Corinthians 11:15).

A Man's Hair *Must* Be Cut

"Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him" (1 Corinthians 11:14). The *Accelerated Bible Curriculum, Lesson 7 – "Separated Because of Him"* – states:

- Man was made in the image of God, and he has been given the highest authority in the human race. That is why he must not have his head covered. If a man wears long hair, he dishonors himself and his head or authority – God. Long hair on a man directly opposes this line of authority.
- How short is "short hair" for a man? It must be short enough to distinguish him from a woman. This length may vary in different generations or in various national cultures.
- Did Jesus wear long hair? Many try to justify wearing long hair with the excuse that Jesus wore His long, but history does not support that idea. A German painter, L. Fahrenkrog, says: "Christ certainly never wore a beard and His hair was beyond a doubt closely cut. For this we have historical proof. The oldest representations, going back to the first Christian centuries, and found chiefly in the catacombs of Rome, all picture Him without a beard."
 - ✓ History clearly states that all Jews, except those taking a Nazarite vow, wore short, trimmed hair. Christ was familiar with the Jewish Talmud which required priests to cut their hair every thirty days. They were not supposed to shave their heads – a sign of sorrow – nor let it grow long – a sign of rebellion.
 - ✓ Long hair today speaks of rebellion and casting off authority. It identifies the wearer with the anti-God, against authority crowd. Pastors and churches who are not aware of this evil and allow rebellious young men a place of honor or leadership are actually fighting against God.

A Sign of Separation

The way we wear our hair – both men and women – is a declaration of our desire to be separate unto the Lord. God has always had a separated people – first the Jews, and now all those who follow His plan, given in His Word (1 Peter 2:9). Here are some of the signals given by the length of a person's hair, both men and women:

- Hair provides a distinction between the sexes; it makes a woman appear feminine and a man appear masculine.
- A woman’s uncut hair shows submission to her own husband, and to the plan and will of God.
- Her uncut hair is a sign to the angels that she is not rebellious.
- A woman’s long, uncut hair identifies her with those who wish to please God.
- A woman’s long hair is given for her “glory,” the honor resulting from God’s good opinion of her.
- A man’s short hair shows that he is under submission to his authority, which is Christ.
- A man’s short hair is a symbol of his authority.
- A man’s short hair identifies him with those who wish to please God.

God’s Word gives no guarantee that following His plan will be easier, more fashionable, or healthier. But when men and women determine to please the Lord, they are rewarded with His promise to answer their prayers.

Conclusion

These two areas of “practicing holiness” in no way cover all the things we do or do not do as Christians. They are simply the most talked about and often the most questioned of our Christian habits. They are also the most obvious to our fellow man, and show the world our desire to please the Lord and be a separated people.

Even though we know the salvation of the soul is not by works of righteousness but by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9), we know to demonstrate our faith with works. Why? Because faith without works is dead (James 2:20-24). The “practice” of holiness serves as a demonstration of our faith in the Lord through works of righteousness (1 Corinthians 15:34).

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16).

The “Path to Righteousness” is a great place to be – right inside God’s Word – where He gives instructions for the correct use of His temple.

Study Questions

1. Give a brief explanation (with Scripture reference) of the importance and instructions for “adorning the temple” as found in the Old Testament. _____

2. Given the following statements about clothing, write the verse of Scripture that supports each.

- 1) Because of the built-in awareness in the human conscience of the difference between men and women, God commands a covering _____
- 2) Clothing should be modest _____
- 3) Clothing should identify with the godly _____
- 4) God made sure the Israelites were able to keep wearing the clothes and shoes they had on when they left Egypt _____
- 5) Clothing should be attractive _____
- 6) Clothing should not confuse the sexes _____
- 7) Clothing should be moderate _____
- 8) Clothing should not be costly _____
- 9) The bride of Christ will be arrayed without ornaments, jewelry, or paint at His appearing _____

3. List six (6) facts about the wearing of jewelry and give the reference used for each.

- 1) _____

- 2) _____

- 3) _____

- 4) _____

- 5) _____

- 6) _____

4. Describe and briefly explain the importance of and what was used for the “covering” for the temple in both the Old and New Testaments. _____

5. List and briefly explain the three (3) components of the covering as a sign of submission to authority. Support your statements with Scripture where possible.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

6. What is the key to these three components? _____

7. List the three (3) reasons given in 1 Corinthians 11:10 that a woman should have power (authority) on her head "because of the angels." (Support your answers with Scripture.)

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

8. Give a brief explanation (with Scripture reference) for the following statement: "A man's hair must be cut." _____

9. What does 1 Corinthians 11:14 say about a man's hair? _____

10. According to historical facts, did Jesus wear long hair? Explain. _____

11. In today's culture and society, what does long hair on a man symbolize? _____

12. The way we wear our _____ - both men and women – is a declaration of our _____ to be _____ unto the _____.

13. List eight (8) signals given by the length of a person's hair, whether man or woman.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

6) _____

7) _____

8) _____

Additional Notes

The Habit of Holiness

(Adapted from Raymond Woodward's *Life Course 201*)

"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord"
(Hebrews 12:14).

Real Christianity is about **LIFE CHANGE**, not just about **RELIGION**. The central "habit" of the Disciple's Cross is the habit of **HOLINESS** which indicates that a real change has taken place in a believer's life. In addition to **glorifying God**, holiness has the effect of **testifying to others** around us. It is possible to keep the "rules" on the habits of Bible study, prayer, tithing and fellowship through sheer human effort. However, the habit of holiness (especially its inner aspects) can only be maintained through the enabling of God's Spirit.

The Bible teaches that HOLINESS must first affect our inward ATTITUDE, and then our outward ACTIONS and APPEARANCE.

1. Personal holiness is essential in maintaining the salvation of a believer.

"Try to live in peace with all people, and try to live free from sin. Anyone whose life is not holy will never see the Lord." (Heb. 12:14)

"But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God – who chose you to be his children – is holy. For he himself has said, 'You must be holy because I am holy.'" (1 Peter 1:15-16)

2. Holiness involves both the negative concept of separation and the positive concept of dedication.

"The Lord also says, 'Leave them and stay away! Don't touch anything that isn't clean. Then I will welcome you and be your Father. You will be my sons and my daughters, as surely as I am God, the All-Powerful.' My friends, God has made us these promises. So we should stay away from everything that keeps our bodies and spirits from being clean. We should honor God and try to be completely like him." (2 Corinthians 6:17 - 7:1)

"And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice – the kind he will accept. When you think of what he has done for you, is this too much to ask?" (Romans 12:1)

3. We are motivated to live holy lives not merely by enforced rules, but by our love for God.

"This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome." (1 John 5:3)

"And how can we be sure that we belong to him? By obeying his commandments. If someone says, 'I belong to God,' but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a

liar and does not live in the truth. But those who obey God's word really do love him. That is the way to know whether or not we live in him." (1 John 2:3-5)

4. Our righteous works are not the MEANS of us receiving salvation, but they should be the RESULT of us receiving salvation!

*"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: **Not of works**, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **unto good works**, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."* (Ephesians 2:8-10)

*"**Not by works of righteousness which we have done**, but according to his mercy he saved us ... and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, **that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works.**"* (Titus 3:5-8)

5. The Bible teaches that a genuine Christian will exhibit a noticeable external witness when "internal holiness" is present in the heart.

*"Let your light so shine before men, that they may **see your good works**, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."* (Matthew 5:16)

*"Dear brothers and sisters, what's the use of saying you have faith if you don't prove it by your actions? That kind of faith can't save anyone ... it isn't enough just to have faith. **Faith that doesn't show itself by good deeds is no faith at all – it is dead and useless** ... 'I can't see your faith if you don't have good deeds, but I will show you my faith through my good deeds' ... So you see, we are made right with God by what we do, not by faith alone."* (James 2:14-24)



6. There are different levels of maturity in God's family, and each member is loved at their present stage.

"If our faith is strong, we should be patient with the Lord's followers whose faith is weak. We should try to please them instead of ourselves. We should think of their good and try to help them ..." (Romans 15:1-2)

"(Jesus said) It will be terrible for people who cause even one of my little followers to sin. Those people would be better off thrown into the deepest part of the ocean with a heavy stone tied around their necks!" (Matthew 18:6)

7. The more mature I become in my lifestyle of holiness, the more God can use me.

"But God's truth stands firm like a foundation stone with this inscription: 'The Lord knows those who are his,' and 'Those who claim they belong to the Lord must turn away from all wickedness' ... some utensils are made of gold and silver, and some are made of wood and clay. The expensive utensils are used for special occasions, and the cheap ones are for everyday use. If you keep yourself pure, you will be a utensil God can use for his purpose.

*Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work.”
(2 Timothy 2:19-21)*

8. Even if I do not feel personally convicted about a holiness standard, I still need to submit to the spiritual leaders God has placed in my life.

“Obey your spiritual leaders and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they know they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this joyfully and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit.” (Hebrews 13:17)

As our society moves further away from God, they also move further away from holiness principles. Even some church groups have now decided to conveniently ignore the Bible’s call for a “lifestyle change” in every believer. But just because immodesty and immorality are accepted by society – or by religion – doesn’t change God’s opinion!

HOLINESS FOR MATURE CHRISTIANS

Here are some important areas of life today in which we must apply the principles of holiness:

ATTITUDE

Galatians 5:19-21, Ephesians 4:31-32

We must put away all evil attitudes including hatred, wrath, jealousy, bitterness, pride, prejudice, vengeance, discord and rebellion. The fruit of the Spirit (kindness, love, patience, self-control, etc.) must manifest itself in our attitudes. We must learn to forgive, to be obedient to authority, to be thankful, not to let anything offend us, and not to be a busybody in the lives of others.

THOUGHT

Proverbs 23:7, Matthew 15:18-20, 2 Corinthians 10:5, Philippians 4:8

We are what we think and we become what we allow our minds to dwell upon. Evil thoughts defile us. We must think on true, pure and noble things, while casting out thoughts that stem from evil lusts and attitudes. We are to take captive every thought in obedience to Christ.

SIGHT

Psalm 101:3, 119:37, Matthew 6:22-23

We must guard our eyes as the gate of the soul and the primary source of input for the mind. We should choose reading material with care so that we do not saturate our minds with vulgarity, sensuality and sin. Because of the violence, illicit sex, sinfulness, bad language and vanity that dominate television, movies and the internet, we must severely limit our exposure to such media.

SPEECH

James 1:26, 3:1-12, 4:11, 5:12

We should avoid gossiping, backbiting, slander, causing division, swearing by an oath, complaining, taking the Lord's name in vain, criticizing, cursing, lying, idle words and suggestive or filthy speech.

BODY

1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 6:12, 6:19-20

Since the body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, we avoid anything that would harm or defile the body, including anything that would cause intoxication or addiction. In light of the biblically described evils of alcoholic beverages, we must abstain from them. In view of the overwhelming evidence that tobacco and hallucinogenic drugs are defiling and harmful, we must not use them.

SEX

1 Corinthians 6:9-10, Colossians 3:5

The Bible condemns all sexual relationships and activity outside of marriage between one man and one woman, and opposes lustful thoughts and actions.

FELLOWSHIP

1 Cor. 5:9-6:8, 15:33, 2 Cor. 6:14, Matthew 18:15-18

Although we should associate with unbelievers, we must not identify ourselves too closely with sinful activities or lifestyles. We should have no fellowship with those who call themselves Christians but continually indulge in sinful activities. We are not to become partnered with unbelievers in relationships such as marriage.

LIFE

Exodus 20:13, Matthew 5:44, Acts 15:29

In view of the sanctity of human life, Christians must not participate in violence or taking of human life. This includes abortion, euthanasia, murder and suicide.

HONESTY

Mark 10:19

Christians must reject all forms of dishonesty. This would include lying, stealing, defrauding, refusal to pay debts, extortion, bribery, and all types of cheating.

AMUSEMENT

1 Thessalonians 5:22, 1 John 2:15

Because of the sinfulness of the world today and because of the biblical warnings against loving the world, we must carefully and maturely regulate our music, sports, activities and amusements. We must avoid excessively worldly atmospheres and appearances. Some activities are inherently worldly by their very nature, such as gambling, dancing and astrology, and must therefore be rejected outright.

HAIR

1 Corinthians 11:13-15

The Bible teaches that men should have short hair and that women should have long uncut hair. God desires us to do this both to maintain a distinction between the sexes and to illustrate our obedience to Him with the only physical characteristic that men and women have the power to change – our hair.

APPEARANCE

Deuteronomy 22:5, 1 Timothy 2:9, 1 Peter 3:1-6

The Bible establishes several principles in relation to our apparel and adornment. These include sex distinction in clothing, modesty of clothing, moderation in the cost of clothing, and avoidance of jewelry and cosmetics that serve only as ornamentation for the body. Specifically, God's Word teaches that garments for either sex must not expose the torso or leg above the knee, nor should they draw attention to the form of the body. The Bible also specifically teaches that only men may wear garments that "gird up the loins" (i.e. pants, which show a separation between the thighs), and that it is an abomination to God for a woman to wear this type of clothing. Applying these principles to modern culture, we must avoid dresses on men and pants on women, shorts on either sex, clothing that immodestly exposes the body (i.e. sleeveless or tight garments), and very expensive or extravagant attire. We must also avoid non-functional jewelry and colored cosmetics (makeup) that serve only to draw attention to the features of the body. Since modern fashion has strayed so far from Biblical principles, we can no longer rely on society's definition of "modesty" to govern our appearance.



Because men and women were created differently, the Bible places emphasis on their unique "problem areas" in its holiness commandments. Women are instructed to APPEAR a certain way so that men are not tempted, while men are instructed to ACT a certain way so that women are not tempted.

God's plan for holiness is designed to help us stay away from temptation and sin. He has provided everything we need to fulfill His command that tells us to "follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which NO MAN shall see the Lord." Those who get to see Him, WILL BE HOLY!

Study Questions

1. The Bible teaches that Holiness must first affect our inward _____, and than our outward _____ and _____.

2. List eight (8) points that support the above statement, supporting each with Scripture.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

6) _____

7) _____

8) _____

3. List and briefly explain the twelve (12) areas of life today in which we must apply the principles of holiness. Give Scripture references for each.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

6) _____

7) _____

8) _____

9) _____

10) _____

11) _____

12) _____

4. As our society moves further away from God, they also move further away from _____ principles. Even some _____ groups have now decided to conveniently ignore the _____ call for a “_____ change” in every _____. But just because _____ and _____ are accepted by society – or by _____ – doesn’t change _____ opinion.

5. Because men and _____ were created _____, the Bible places emphasis on their _____ “problem areas” in its holiness _____. Women are instructed to _____ a certain way so that men are not _____, while men are instructed to _____ a certain way so that _____ are not tempted.

Real Christianity is about life change, not just religion.