

Holiness is From the Inside Out 2020-05-24

1 Peter 1:14-16

As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

Thank you to those who served in military

We often remember things Jesus saved us from (judgment, sin's penalty/power) but give less thought/effort to things Jesus saved us to: freedom, obedience, holiness

- Enjoy benefits of justification without striving for sanctification (holiness)
 - Holiness not option for Christian; it's a command. 1 Peter 1:15, 1 Thessalonians 4:3, 7

1 Peter 1:15 as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,

1 Thess 4:3a For this is the will of God, your sanctification:
Vs 7 For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness.

- What God commands, He empowers us to do!
 - Holiness grows as indwelling Holy Spirit transforms you from the inside out.

Many Christians only equate holiness with sanctification-by-checklist:

- list of do's/don'ts.....Usually focus more on DON'Ts than DOs.
 - Feel "holy" because not do drugs, served at Sally, gave \$\$.
- Possible to avoid evil without pursuing holiness. Matthew 23:25, 28

Matthew 23:25....*"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. Vs 28*....*So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.*

- Even the lost may consider it wise to avoid evil or do "good"
 - Secular seminar: "give to poor, it helps bottom line."

Holiness includes avoiding evil and bearing fruit of Holy Spirit but at a foundational level it's being like Jesus.

- Holiness isn't just something you do. It's something you become.
 - Holiness could be defined as Christ-likeness.

Holiness is brought forth by God from a heart desiring Jesus Christ and abiding in Him.
John 15:4

John 15:4-5...*Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*

- As inner holiness grows it will be displayed outwardly.
 - Not outside-in transformation, but inside-out revolution that causes us to think, act, speak differently.
- Indwelling Holy Spirit produces character of Jesus in us. Matthew 7:16, Galatians 5:22-23

Matt 7:16...*You will recognize them by their fruits.*

Gal 5:22-23...*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control;*

- Authentic holiness is characterized by fruit of Holy Spirit.
 - Holiness grows as Holy Spirit transforms you from inside out.

Only by Holy Spirit indwelling and power can grow in holiness.

- Holiness begins with Holy Spirit transforming your heart to passionately desire to be like Jesus in all ways and enables to give up your will for His.
 - As God takes deeper in holiness, your heart changes which affects desires, attitude, motives, words, actions, thoughts.
- Spirit is source of all holy living, yet believer commanded to walk.
 - joint venture... God supplies means to accomplish sanctification, but we must participate by obeying/loving Him.
 - Holiness is grace with blisters. Philippians 2:12b-13

Phil 2:12b-13...*work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

Holiness is hard work. It's not an accomplishment or 1-time event but gradual daily growth.

- spiritually breathing: exhale (sin, etc.) Inhale Word, fellowship, Holy Spirit filling, etc
 - As holiness grows, our standards of what we do/say/think, attitude, motives will get higher.
 - gross sin > wrong motives/attitudes > see lacking
- Delicate balance: requires effort yet can't do it in own strength.
 - But if don't put forth effort, not likely grow in holiness.
 - How are you doing "abiding" in Jesus?
 - Pray for heart satisfied in Jesus and desire to be more like Him.

- Increase your “mini-habits” and to transition into more robust habits of spiritual formation.
- Don’t be satisfied with little holiness.....God has so much more for you.
- Complete conformity to Jesus’ image should be our goal. 1 Peter 1:16, Philippians 1:6

1 Peter 1:16...“You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

Philippians 1:6....And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

- With your cooperation and obedience empowered by Holy Spirit, Jesus wants to perfect the work of making you holy.
 - Transforming you from inside out.