

Living in Holiness

Discipleship 201: Session #11

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God--what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:1-2

Introduction: God's goal for us is to become like Jesus. We have been clothed in Christ's righteousness: this is a gift of God won through the death and resurrection of Christ. Yet, in response to His gift of righteousness, we are called as Christ's followers to live in His righteousness.

What does it mean to be "holy"?

- A. The word "holy" means to be "set **APART**."
 - 1. We are set apart by God to be a **LIGHT** to the nations
 - 2. A person who is holy is called a **SAINT** which comes from the same word
- B. We often think that being a Saint means to be perfect in actions, great in deeds. However, being a saint has to do with God's choice of us. Our actions change because we are chosen by God, not as a prerequisite in order to be chosen by God.
 - 1. We are holy/saintly, therefore **BE** holy/saintly.
 - 2. We represent **CHRIST**

What rules do we need to obey?

- A. We often define "holiness" in the **NEGATIVE**
 - 1. A "holy roller" is one who avoids certain taboos.
 - 2. However, for every "do not do this", there is a positive characteristic of what we are called to do
- B. 3 Examples:
 - Negative: Do not **Gossip**
 - Positive: **ENCOURAGE** one another

Negative: Do not **COMPLAIN**
Positive: Be **THANKFUL**

Negative: Do not **Kill**
Positive: **Protect** the life of others

- C. Holiness is not about our superiority over those who are not holy.
 - It is about walking in a close relationship with **JESUS**.
 - We **CHANGE** our lives for those we love and want to be close to, not because we have to, but because we want to

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I John 2:3-6

What needs to change in our lives?

Paul tells us that God will change our behavior will change in three areas (Romans 12:9-21):

1. Sincere **LOVE** of others
 - a. Hate **EVIL**
 - b. Be **DEVOTED**
 - c. **HONOR** others
2. Enthusiasm for the **LORD**
 - a. Full of **ZEAL**
 - b. **JOYFUL**
 - c. Patient in **TRIAL**
 - d. Fervent in **PRAYER**
3. Harmonious **RELATIONSHIPS**
 - a. Share with the **NEEDY**
 - b. **HOSPITABLE**
 - c. Bless our **PERSECUTORS**
 - d. **REJOICE** with those who rejoice
 - e. **MOURN** with those who mourn
 - f. live in **HARMONY**
 - g. don't be **PROUD**
 - h. associate with those of **LOWER** social, economic, religious standing
 - i. don't be **CONCEITED**
 - j. do what is **RIGHT**
 - k. live in **PEACE**
 - l. refuse to take **REVENGE**
 - m. overcome evil with **GOOD**

How do we begin leading holy lives?

A. Offer **SELVES** to God

1. Give our **TIME**: allow God to establish our **PRIORITIES**
2. give our **AMBITIONS** (Mt. 6:33)
But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. "So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today. Matthew 6:32-33
3. Give our **POSSESSIONS** (Mt. 7:9-24), for the more we possess, the more **INSECURE** we become
4. Give our
 - a. **EARS**: stop listening to **GOSSIP** and attune ourselves to God's voice
 - b. **EYES**: look at what leads us to God
 - c. **MOUTH**: use our words to encourage, not to destroy (James 3:1-12)
For every species of beast... has been tamed... but no one can tame the tongue--a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? James 3:7-12
 - d. **HANDS**: serve others rather than take for ourselves
 - e. **MIND**: (Philippians 4:8)

B. Become a living **SACRIFICE**

William Barclay "Jesus came not to make life easy but to make men great."

C. Depend upon the **HOLY SPIRIT**