



SERIES: DEEPER LIFE

Holiness Defined

Holiness: Lesson Two

Life Reference: I Thessalonians 4:4-8

Focus Verse:

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

Holiness may not be popular in modern society, but it is powerful. Without it we shall see neither God nor a revelation of His glory.

We need to understand that holiness is not an attitude of God; it is an attribute of God! It is so powerful in its reality that anything else is repulsive to His divine nature. We should pray that this study will cause us to step out of our own thinking and search for the "mind of Christ." If we really want God in our lives, we will seek to find all that He would have us do.

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5).

Above all else God wants us to be holy. Do we give lip service on Sunday and then merge into the mass of humanity so unchanged that our presence is unnoticed by those whose lives we touch? Do we really want to be holy?

I Thessalonians 4:4 "That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour." Sanctification means consecration and dedication.



© 2007

Visit: www.moretolifetoday.com for Terms of Use

**I Thessalonians
4:7-8**

"For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit."

These verses seem to be saying that to despise a holy life is to despise God Himself. Holiness is an attribute of God's nature.

If we reject God's moral nature, we have no right to call on His name or have access to His almighty power. Can we receive His mercy while we reject His holiness? To despise any part of God is to despise all of Him.

It is said that more people have been Spirit-filled in this generation than in all preceding generations together. Why does this generation seem to be apathetic about holiness? How can we be filled with the Holy Spirit without having an inward craving for holiness? God's call to holiness has never abated. Grace did not come to revoke the call but to implement it.

Colossians 1:22 ". . . to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight."

Christ came that He might present us holy, without blame, and above reproach in His sight. Holiness is not intended to make life uncomfortable and unnatural. Holy living is life at its fullest. It replaces the negatives with the positives of life.

Jesus declared that one of the purposes of His coming was that "we might have life, and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

Christians in the Book of Acts were vibrant and full of joy. Everywhere they went, they spread this life they had received. The same is true in the lives of holy people today. The church does not need condemnation for ungodliness as much as it needs motivation to true holiness. The best defense against false holiness is association with true holiness.

The description of God's holiness is also coupled with jealousy.

**Deuteronomy
4:24**

God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God. He will not tolerate worship that defies His nature. He cannot. God and holiness are inseparable.



© 2008

Visit: www.moretolifetoday.com for Terms of Use



Worship is our response to God's manifested holiness and because He is a holy, jealous God, He demands exclusive worship. More than twenty times the Bible speaks of God's "holy name."

Taking a light view of God and His holiness will produce a light view of sin. His very habitation is holy; to draw near Him we must enter a place of holiness.

Hebrews 4:16 "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." How can we, as Paul said, come boldly into God's presence if we are not holy?

Psalm 22:3 "But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel." He dwells where He is praised. The word "inhabit" means to: (1) live in a place; (2) reside permanently.

Matthew 6: 33 "But seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." In all of Jesus' teachings He was more interested in getting heaven into us than getting us into heaven.

Holiness was the theme of everything Jesus taught. He made righteousness such a desirable goal that it should become a priority in our lives and the motivation for all our actions.

True holiness is attractive to people. On the other hand self-righteousness, which is a poor substitute for holiness, repels others. It is interesting that the Spirit of God is referred to as the Holy Spirit or the Holy Ghost. When the Holy Spirit lives in and operates through us, then we become holy as He is holy. Our nature will take on radical changes when we allow Him to take control of our thinking, our actions, and our very lives.

I Peter 1:15-16 "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."

I John 4:4 "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."





Life Response:

God desired to restore man to the holiness he had lost through sin. God became a man without losing the reality of being God. Angels cannot die; only man is under the sentence of death, so He did not come as an angel or a theophany. To redeem us from death Christ had to become what we are in order to die our death for us. What He was, we can now become because of the finished work of the cross.

When we speak of "the world" versus "the church," we are simply using the term that the apostles and Jesus Himself used. There is a definite separation in the two, and we who are filled with His Holy Spirit need to find how to emulate "Christ in you [us] the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27).

Holiness is securing a new reputation through Christ. We are not what we once were because of His sacrifice and love for us. Can we love Him less?

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

Dr. James Hastings, a scholar of the past century, wrote:

"The characteristic New Testament word for *holy* is, *hagios* . . . It is generally believed that the fundamental idea of the word is that of separation, and that its moral signification therefore is: separation from sin, and so, consecration to God."

Holiness is not only what God gives us but also what we *manifest* that God has given us. Otherwise, He would receive no glory from our lives. Until we show the world that something different is available, they will function in the way they have been brought up to function.

The exercise of self-will against the will of God is a sure sign of sin. That is why Satan was cast out of heaven. When we come to know Christ, we cannot allow our own will — with its "I," "me," and "my"— to become the dominant force in our lives. The greatest hindrance to holiness is disobedience to the Word and known will of God. He will not strike us with a thunderbolt but will gently withdraw and let us do our own thing.

- **Read Galatians 5:16-25.**

Physical cravings can be allowed to override spiritual longings. Read the above passage to see the contrast of the works of the flesh to the fruit of the Spirit.



© 2008

Visit: www.moretolifetoday.com for Terms of Use



As we open our spirit to God, our understanding will open to His ways and His Word. If we are in conflict with God's holiness, we cannot enjoy either world; we are miserable in life and in the spirit. Being brought into the image of God is a conscious daily decision and activity.

We must realize that Satan will deceive us if possible. Where there is a counterfeit, there is also a real. Seldom do we see a valueless item counterfeited. The world will tell us that it is not necessary to separate ourselves from the world, but the Word of God is forever settled.

"For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven" (Psalm 119:89).

We are called to live in a perfect relationship with God so that our lives produce a longing for Him in others lives. A holy life speaks even when we are silent and will become an attraction or a reproof to the onlooker.

There are those who think that the Church would have a more effective ministry if we would learn the ways of the world, that it could be changed by our conformity to it. But friendship with the world is impossible to one who has been set apart by the Spirit of God.

II 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."

James 4:5 "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

Because God is infinite and eternal, there is no other source of righteousness or holiness by which to judge ourselves. We will either submit to Him or be forever without His grace or His presence. It is up to us. (Read Hebrews 12:9.)

A holy father can only be the father of holy children. To those who believe, He gives the power to become the sons of God (John 1:12). What we are must be expressed, and if we are possessors of God's holiness we will want to express it.

"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous" (I John 5:3).





Inward changes will be reflected in outward character. Our behavior will reflect our inward holiness. Our responsibility in being holy is to remain vitally connected to the Lord. To bear the fruit of holiness is a natural outgrowth of a relationship with God.

Ask yourself: "Am I willing to bear the fruit of holiness and submit to the hand of the Lord for whatever He deems necessary that I may bear the fruit of righteousness?" Our answer to that question will determine the level of our attainment of God's holiness.

More Deeper Life References:

Psalm 29:2
Psalm 30:4
Psalm 93:5
Isaiah 35:8
Romans 6:19
I Thessalonians 3:13
I Timothy 2:15

Written by Gwyn Oakes



© 2008

Visit: www.moretolifetoday.com for Terms of Use



SERIES: DEEPER LIFE

Holiness Defined

Holiness: Lesson Two Study Sheet

Life Reference: I Thessalonians 4:4-8

Focus Verse:

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

Holiness may not be popular in modern society, but it is powerful. Without it we shall see neither God nor a revelation of His glory.

- The Word of God is full of references to holiness.
- Holiness is not an attitude of God; it is an attribute of God!
- We cannot offer lip service to holiness and then merge unnoticed by those whose lives we touch.

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5).

Life Reflection:

How would you define holiness?

Do you feel it is possible to live a holy life without those around us noticing this characteristic in our lives?

Read I Thessalonians 4:4, 7-8.

- Sanctification means consecration and dedication
- God has called us unto holiness.
- Can we receive His mercy while we reject His holiness? To despise any part of God is to despise all of Him.
- Grace did not come to revoke the call to holiness but to implement it.



© 2008

Visit: www.moretolifetoday.com for Terms of Use



“. . . to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight.”
(Colossians 1:22).

Jesus declared that one of the purposes of His coming was that “we might have life, and have it more abundantly” (John 10:10).

- Holy living is life at its fullest.
- Holiness replaces the negatives with the positives of life.
- The best defense against false holiness is association with true holiness.

Life Reflection:

Deuteronomy 4:24 describes God as a consuming fire and a jealous God. Why do you think the Bible portrays this view of God?

Do you feel it is possible to live for God without giving Him exclusive worship? Explain.

Read the following verses of Scripture:

- Hebrews 4:16
- Psalm 22:3
- Matthew 6:33

Holiness was the theme of everything Jesus taught. He made righteousness such a desirable goal that it should become a priority in our lives and the motivation for all our actions.

Holiness is securing a new reputation through Christ. We are not what we once were because of His sacrifice and love for us. Can we love Him less?

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



© 2008

Visit: www.moretolifetoday.com for Terms of Use



Life Reflection:

- **Read Galatians 5:16-25.**

Physical cravings can be allowed to override spiritual longings. Read the above passage to see the contrast of the works of the flesh to the fruit of the Spirit.

Ask yourself: "Am I willing to bear the fruit of holiness and submit to the hand of the Lord for whatever He deems necessary that I may bear the fruit of righteousness?" Our answer to that question will determine the level of our attainment of God's holiness.

More Deeper Life References:

Psalm 29:2
Psalm 30:4
Psalm 93:5
Isaiah 35:8
Romans 6:19

Written by Gwyn Oakes



© 2008

Visit: www.moretolifetoday.com for Terms of Use