

## *Holiness*

1. *A man was marooned on a small island. After many months he was then found. He had built three huts. When asked what the huts were for, he replied that the first was his home, the second his church. When asked about the third, he said it was the church he used to go to. Left to ourselves we even get sick of ourselves!*

How does Jeremiah 17:9 describe every man's heart?

---

How does Romans 3:10 describe every man?

---

- a. Even though our hearts are wicked, and left on our own we do not seek God, He has chosen to make us like Christ. The Lord is committed to work in us because we are unable to do it on our own.

Read 1 Peter 1:13-16.

What is God's **command** that Peter quotes from Leviticus 11:44?

---

- b. Holiness is the **essence** of who God is. According to 1 Samuel 2:2, who else is holy like God?

---

The Lord is absolute perfection. Whatever He does is good, righteous... holy. God is in no way like us. His character is pure, without any hint of wrong. His motives are righteous. His word is powerful, and His actions are without malice.

According to Hebrews 6:18, what is impossible for God to do? \_\_\_\_\_

God's holiness pervades His entire being and shapes his attributes. His love is a holy love, His mercy is holy mercy, and even His anger and wrath are holy anger and holy wrath. These concepts are difficult for humans to grasp, just as God is difficult for us to understand in His entirety.

Read Isaiah 6:1-8. These verses describe Isaiah's worship experience. How would you express his response to God's character in verse 5.

---

---

- c. We are called to live a life that **distinguishes** us as belonging to God. When God told Israel to be holy in Leviticus 11 and 19, He was instructing them to be **distinct** from the other nations by giving them specific regulations to govern their lives. Israel is God's **chosen** nation and God has set them apart from all other people groups. They are His **special** people, and consequently they were given **standards** that God wanted them to live by so the **world** would know they belonged to Him.

Does the world know you belong to God?

1 Peter 2:9-12

*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.*

2. Living a life of holiness

- a. Holiness results from a **right relationship** with God.

According to John 1:12, who alone may claim to be God's children?

---

- b. You must **submit** to His Kingdom rule.

According to Joshua 24:15, you must \_\_\_\_\_ this day whom you will serve.

According to 1 John 5:2-4, how will people know that we love the children of God?

We are to \_\_\_\_\_ God and \_\_\_\_\_ his commandments.

Submission is such a difficult principle. Getting our way is a way of life for us. When you gave Christ your life, you submitted to Him as Lord and Master. The working out of that is a matter of faith and obedience. Jesus gave His blood for you and expects your love, allegiance, and obedience in return.

Submitting to His Kingdom means we refuse to our own kingdom. John 5:24 says that we have passed from death to life, from our kingdom to His! In our kingdom, we rule. In His, Jesus does. Submission is at the core of what it means to be in the Kingdom of God.

Write Jesus' words down from Luke 22:42,

"... yet not My \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_ be done.

Even Jesus submitted His will to the Father's!

*"There is no motive for holiness so great as that which streams from the veins of Jesus." -Charles Spurgeon*

- c. You must **focus** your attention on His Kingdom.

Read Luke 9:57-62.

What do you think Jesus was looking for in those who were to follow Him?

---

Read Colossians 3:1-4.

What should you seek \_\_\_\_\_

What should you set your minds on? \_\_\_\_\_

Why should you do this? \_\_\_\_\_

What you focus your attention on will determine the kind of person you will become. If your attention is on things of this world, you will become worldly. Being holy is not about escaping this world. It is about purpose and direction. Jesus said in John 17:14-19, that we are not "of" this world. He meant that we have been changed and given a new homeland, Heaven. In this world we are to be ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20). We show the world the nature of God. What a privilege and responsibility.

- d. Set your **heart** on things above.

As in Colossians 3:1, Paul is referring to the totality of your being. When you set your heart on the Kingdom of God it includes your **passions**, your **goals**, and your **desires**.

Read Psalm 42:1-2.

How does the Psalmist describe the deer? "As the deer \_\_\_\_\_".

Read Jesus as He speaks in Matthew 5:6.

How does Jesus describe a believer?

*Blessed are those who \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*

What keeps you up at night? What occupies your alone and quiet moments?

What goals have you set for yourself? What upsets you?

Most people are so engrossed in this world, their passions, desires, and goals are of this world. The Lord wants us to set our hearts on Him and His Kingdom.

- e. Set your **minds** on things above.

Read Colossians 3:2.

By the mind Paul is referring to your **thoughts**, your **study**, your **reasoning**.

According to Romans 12:2, what part of you needs to be renewed?

---

Read 2 Timothy 2:15. How can you become approved, and unashamed?

---

Read Philippians 4:8. What should be the focus of your mind?

---

Have you ever wondered how a teenager can learn the words of songs that you might think are unintelligible? How many times do you have to listen to a song until you can lip-sync it without error? Or, what does it take to become proficient at a video game? Our minds are amazing! God has created us with exceptional abilities.

As a Mathematics major in college I refused to give up on a question. I was determined to get it right, no matter how long it took! I set my mind to finish the task. Let's set our minds on the Kingdom and find out how we change!

f. Set your **life** on things above.

Read Colossians 3:3-4. This refers to your **purpose** and your **death**. Holiness is about living a life in a way that Christ lives through us.

*Hudson Taylor (missionary to China) has this to say..*

*I used to ask God to help me.*

*Then I asked if I might help Him.*

*I ended up asking Him to do His work through me.*

Christ is our life. Only as we set our lives on the Kingdom can He live his life through us. A life focused on things above will have significant adjustments. Be careful not to turn holiness into a new law. Submission is a joy, not a burden.

**Legalism** is you living your life to prove yourself to God.

**Holiness** is God living His life in and through you.

g. Put to **death** whatever belongs to your old, earthly nature.

Death never comes easily! Your old nature will fight to remain in control at every level. Over your life you have developed habits, made choices, coped with pain, pursued pleasure, sought peace, and developed techniques to get by. Now the Lord wants to change all of that. He wants you to reflect His character, His goals, His grace, His purpose, and you find yourself at odds with Him.

Holiness will require real honesty on your part. If you are going to live a holy life you must allow the Lord to lay your life open and transform you.

Pray Psalm 139:23-24,

*Search me, O God, and know my heart!*

*Try me and know my thoughts!*

*And see if there be any grievous way in me,*

*and lead me in the way everlasting!*

Read Colossians 3:5-9

Paul's list is **not exhaustive**. There are many more and you know them in your own life! Ask the Lord to show you things in your life that are part of your old nature. Check off those things in your life that are inconsistent with a holy life:

sexual immorality	gossiping
impurity	controlling substance (drugs, alcohol, etc.)
lust	meanness
evil desire	selfishness
covetousness	laziness
anger	stealing
wrath	harmful habits
malice	immodest clothing
slander	unforgiveness
obscene talk	lying
cheating	
licentiousness: lacking moral restraints ( <i>appearance, clothing, activities</i> )	

---

---

---

- h. Take time to talk to the Lord about the issues He showed you above. Ask the Lord where He wants to start. What did He say?

---

Now, give it to Him. *"Lord you now have this area of my life. Set me free from its control over me. Replace it with your character."*

Spend some time researching biblical references and Christian books related to the issue. Seek out someone to help you.

Now as a positive part of holiness...

- i. Put on the **new man**.

Read Colossians 3:10-17.

Look at this list from Colossians. This is your goal! To be like Christ.

*compassionate hearts*  
*kindness*  
*humility*  
*meekness*  
*patience*  
*bearing with one another*  
*forgiving each other*  
*love*  
*let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts*  
*be thankful*  
*let the word of Christ dwell in you richly*  
*teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom*  
*singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs*  
*Do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

This list is in no way exhaustive. But what a start! The Bible is full of character qualities that should be ours. It is a journey worth traveling!

Here is a quote from an article by Kevin DeYoung: The Hole in Holiness

*When is the last time we took a verse like Ephesians 5:4—“Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving”—when is the last time we took a verse like this and even began to try to apply this to our conversation, our joking, our movies, our YouTube clips, our TV and commercial intake? The fact of the matter is if you read through the New Testament epistles, you will find very few explicit commands that tell us to evangelize and very few explicit commands that tell us to take care of the poor in our communities, but there are dozens and dozens of verses in the New Testament that enjoin us, in one way or another, to be holy as God is holy (e.g., 1 Peter 1:13-16).*

- j. We focused on your inner life first because holiness of heart leads to holiness of actions. If you begin on the outer life you run the risk of becoming a pharisee who judges others and a legalist who is more self-righteousness than holy. A change of heart leads to a change in actions.

Remember, the goal is to be like Christ.

Of David, God said in 1 Samuel 13:14, “*The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart.*”

Paul repeats this in Acts 13:22, “*God testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'*”

Oh that God would say that of you, a man (woman) after God’s own heart!!

Now that’s an epitaph!