

BE YE THEREFORE HOLY

INTRODUCTION

1. God Has Always Expected His People To Be Different.
 - A. Lev. 20:26: "You shall be holy to Me, for I the Lord am holy and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be Mine."
 - B. Lev. 19:1-2: "And the Lord spoke to Moses saying, 'Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say to them: 'You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.'"
 - C. Lev. 11:44-45: "For I am the Lord your God. You shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy. Neither shall you defile yourselves with any creeping thing that creeps on the earth. For I am the Lord who brings you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy."
2. As God's Chosen People - The Israelites Understood the Command.
 - A. They understood that ISRAEL was different from other nations.
 - B. They understood that SABBATH was different from other days.
 - C. They understood that TEMPLE was different from other buildings.
 - D. They understood that BIBLE was different from other books.
 - E. They understood that GOD was different from other gods.
3. The Concept of CHOSEN Carries Certain Implications:
 - A. A Terrifying Sense of Responsibility.
 - (1) Amos 3:1-2: "Hear this word that the Lord has spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying: 'You only have I known of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.'"

B. Chosenness Involves Obedience.

- (1) Deut. 27:9-10: "... Take heed and listen, O Israel: This day you have become the people of the Lord your God. Therefore, you shall obey the voice of the Lord your God, and observe His commandments and His statutes which I command you today."

C. The LAW Becomes The Most Important Thing in One's Life.

Deut 6:
11:

- (1) Deut. 32:46-47: "Set your hearts on all the words which I testify among you today, which you shall command your children to be careful to observe--all the words of this law, for it is not a futile thing for you, because it is your life, and by this word you shall prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess."

D. This Chosen Concept Made Him Exclusive.

- (1) Deut. 13:12-18: worshipers of false gods cut off, goods burned, communities banned.
- (2) (Ex. 23:32; 34:12-15, 16; Deut. 7:3) No alliances with other nations, no inter-marriage.

a. THE CEREMONIAL LAW MADE HIM EXCLUSIVE.

(Lev. 19:17-19)

I. CHRISTIANS ARE TO BE HOLY BECAUSE HE WHO CALLED-SAVED US IS HOLY.

A. The world Is Trying to Pull the Church Down to Its Level.

1. Rom. 12:2: "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."
- a. Phillips: "Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God remake you so that your whole attitude of mind is changed."
2. I Peter 1:14-15: "You must live as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your

ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written: 'Be holy, for I am holy.'"

Quote
Barclay

"You must live like obedient children, and you must not allow your lives to be shaped by the influence of the passions which used to dominate you in the days of your ignorance. So far from that, you must show yourselves holy in all your conduct, as he who called you is holy, for it stands written: 'You must be holy, because I am holy.'" (Barclay)

- a. HERE ARE TWO DIRECT COMMANDS. THEY TELL US CLEARLY WHAT OUR GOD EXPECTS US TO BE IN THIS WORLD.

ἅγιος means different and separate.
hagios

II. WE CANNOT AFFORD TO PERMIT OURSELVES TO LOWER OUR STANDARDS.

- A. Ex. 23:1: "You shall not circulate a false report. Do not put your hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness."
- B. I John 2:15-17: "Do not love the world or things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life - is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever." (Barclay)

MOSE
IN
JERUSALEM

- C. There Was No Such Thing As Secret Discipleship to the Apostles.

1. I Peter 2:9-10: "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy."

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a nation different from other nations, a people designed by God to be His own, and it is your task to proclaim the noble deeds of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light .. Once you were not a people at all; now you are the people of God." (Barclay)

3. II Cor. 6:14-16: "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: 'I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.'"

BARCLAY "Stop trying to run in double harness with unbelievers. Can there be any partnership between right and wrong? Can there be any fellowship between light and darkness? What agreement can there be between Christ and Belial? How can a believer share with an unbeliever? How can God's temple ever come to any possible agree-agreement with idols? And we are the temple of the living God." (Barclay)

4. Titus 2:11-12: "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age."

THE CHOICE IS CLEAR - WE CANNOT LIVE ON TWO LEVELS

III. THE ACCEPTED OF MODERN BEHAVIOUR BY MANY IS REJECTED BY OUR GOD.

A. A large Segment of Americans Accept the Following:



1. Live Together Prior to Marriage.
2. Pre-Marital Sex. (The statistics are appalling.)
3. Social Drinking.
4. Abortions - Killing millions of babies each year.
5. Homosexuality - (an alternative lifestyle).
The "new" morality is just the old immorality which many wink at these days.
6. Pornography: Movies - Video Tapes - Books

NOTE: Many would not be caught dead in such places, but permit it in their homes.

7. Immodest Dress.
8. Promiscuous Petting on Dates.
9. Divorce on Any Grounds - or no grounds at all.
10. Modern Dancing - Modern Dance Halls.
11. Filthy, salacious, suggestive lyrics in modern songs.
12. Vulgar Language: Television, Books, Movies, Job, Home, School.
13. Birth Control for Promiscuity. (Insertion of Pessary)
14. Loss of a Sense of Shame.
15. Shady Business Deals.
16. Racism.
17. A Loss of Compassion to the Real Poor and Needy.
18. Irresponsibility to our Parents - and Children.

B. Look How God's People Are Supposed to Live.

1. Phil. 2:15: "That you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world."
2. Eph. 4:17-24: Putting off the old man and putting on the new.
3. Eph. 5:1-7: "...But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints"
4. I Thess. 4:3-6: "For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified."

PEOPLE ARE TO BE LOVED
THINGS ARE TO BE USED
 THE BASEST SINS COME WHEN WE GET THESE REVERSED!