

IN PURSUIT OF HOLINESS

Rom. 6:14

INTRODUCTION:

1. The Word Holy, In Various Forms, Occurs 600 Times In The Bible.
 - (A) Lev. 11:44: "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."
2. To Be Holy Is To Be Morally Blameless.
 - (A) To be separated from sin.
 - (B) To be separated to God.
 - (1) 1 Thess. 4:3-7: "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. For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness."
 - (2) 1 Peter 1:14-16: "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.'"
 - (C)

To live a holy life, then, is to live a life in conformity to the moral precepts of the Bible and in contrast to the sinful ways of the world. It is to live a life characterized by the "putting off the old self and putting on the new."

- (1) Eph. 4:22-24: "that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in righteousness and true holiness."

3. Our Attitude Toward Sin is More Self-Centered Than God-Centered.

(A) We do not take some sin seriously.

(1) Tend to tolerate some sins.

(a) It is the compromises of the "little" issues that leads to the Greater Downfalls.

(B) We cannot categorize "Sin" big or little.

(1) All sin is against God.

4. God Calls Every Christian To A Holy Life.

(A) A Holy Life is Imperative Because God Is Holy.

(1) This requires conformity to the character of God.

(a) 1 John 1:5: "This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all."

James 1:13: "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone."

(b) We do not always act consistently with our character. We tell a lie or allow ourselves to get trapped into a series of impure thoughts.

(c) Exodus 15:11: "Who is like You, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders?"

(d) Rev. 4:8: "And the four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: 'Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!'"

(e) Habakkuk 1:13: "You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness. Why do You look on those who deal treacherously, and hold Your Tongue when

the wicked devours one more righteous than he?"

5. God's Holiness Does Not Make Allowances For Minor Flaws Or Shortcomings In Our Personal Character.

(A) Heb. 12:13-14: "And make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed. Pursue peace with all men, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord."

(1) Do we feel we have no choice but to shade the truth a little, or commit just a "slightly" dishonest act?

(a) Zachariah 8:17: "'Let none of you think evil in your heart against your neighbor; And do not love a false oath. For all these are things that I hate,' says the Lord."

(b) Ps. 119:104: "Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way."

(2) As we grow in Holiness - We grow to hate sin.

(3) Gen. 39:9: "There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"

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(4) 1 Pet. 1:16-17: "Because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy. And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your sojourning here in fear;'"

6. Holiness Is Not An Option. Heb. 12:14: "Pursue peace with all men, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord;"

(A) Isa. 64:6: "But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."

(1) Our righteousness cannot merit salvation.

(a) Rom. 5:19: "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one

Man's obedience many will be made righteous."

- (b) 1 Pet. 3:18: "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,"
- (c) Heb. 10:10: "By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."
- (d) 1 Thess. 4:7: "For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness."
- (e) 1 Cor. 1:2: "To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:"
- (f) Eph. 1:4: "just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,"
- (g) 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,"

NOTE:

The same grace that saves us teaches us to renounce ungodly living.

7. Holiness Is Required For Fellowship With God.

- (A) 1 John 1:3: "that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ."
- (B) Ps. 15:1: "Lord, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill?"
- (C) Ps. 66:18: "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear."

- (D) 2 Cor. 5:17: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

8. Holiness Is Required For Our Well-Being.

- (A) Heb. 12:6: "For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives."
- (B) Ps. 32:3-4: "When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me: my vitality was turned into the drought of summer." Selah. DAVID
- (C) 1 Pet. 1:7: "that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ."
- (D) 2 Tim. 2:21: "Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work."

9. Christ Is Our Role Model Of Holiness.

- (A) 2 Cor. 5:21: "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."
- (B) Heb. 4:15: "For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin."
- (C) 1 Pet. 2:21-22: "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: 'Who committed no sin, nor was guile found in His mouth';"
- (D) 1 John 3:5: "And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin."

10. It Is Possible To Do The Right Thing With The Wrong Motive.

- (A) 1 Tim. 1:15: "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief."

- (B) Rom. 6:6-7, 12: "knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should not longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts."
- (C) Rom. 7:21: "I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good." - *APOSTLE PAUL*
- (D) Ps. 139:23-24: "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." C
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- (E) 1 Cor. 10:12: "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall."
- (F) Prov. 4:23: "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life."
- (G) 1 Thess. 4:7-8: "For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit."
- (H) Gal. 5:16: "I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh."
- (I) Ps. 51:2,7: "Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."
- (J) 2 Pet. 1:4: "By which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

11. Holiness Requires A Constant Battle With Satan.

- (A) Rom. 8:13: "For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live."
- (B) Heb. 12:1- "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,"

THE GREEKS RAN NAKED

- (C) James 4:7: "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."
- (D) 2 Pet. 3:14: "Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;"
- (E) Col. 3:5: "Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry."
- (F) Heb. 12:2: "looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

(G) Ps. 119:11: "Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You."

(H) 1 Thess. 4:3: "For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;"

(I) 1 John 2:1: "My little children, these things I write to you, that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."

Sow a thought, reap an act.
 Sow an Act - reap a habit.
 Sow a habit - reap a character.

(J) Eph. 5:3-4: "But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks."

(K) Matt. 5:28: "But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart," *THOUGHT MUST PRECEED THE ACT*

(L) Job 31:1: "I have made a covenant with my eyes; Why then should I look upon a young woman?"

12. Holiness Requires Complete Discipline.

(A) 1 Tim. 4:7: "But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself rather to godliness."

THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE - WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE OF THE BIBLE

- (B) 1 Cor. 9:24-27: "Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified."
- (C) Eph. 4:22-25: "that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grow corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in righteousness and true holiness. Therefore, putting away lying, each one speak truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another."

GOD'S PEOPLE
ACROSS THE WORLD
HAVE LARGELY
FORSAKEN -
GOD'S BOOK

(D) Joshua 1:8: "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."

(E) 2 Cor. 7:1: "Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

WHERE ARE
THE
BIBLE
SEMINARS
TODAY?

2:25 -
(F) Phil. 4:8: "I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts," E PAPHRODITUS

(G) Rom. 6:19: "I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness."

NOTE:

The battle for holiness must be won on two fronts: without- within.