

Holiness

2 Cor 3:18 *We all, with unveiled faces, are reflecting the glory of the Lord and are **being transformed into the same image** from glory to glory this is from the Lord who is the Spirit.*

Rom 8:13 *if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live*

Holiness starts from our identity with Christ from the moment of our salvation.

Acts 2:3 *They saw what seemed to be **tongues of fire** that separated and came to rest on each of them.*

The birth of the church was marked by a sign that God works with people that have been purified by His Spirit.

“Holiness is the habit of being of one mind with God, as we find His mind described in Scripture. It is the habit of agreeing with God’s judgement, hating what He hates, loving what He loves, and measuring everything in this world by the standard of His Word. A holy man will endeavour to shun every known sin and to keep every known commandment” (Ryle)

Jesus is our example of holiness demonstrating a life of purity and showing no retaliation in the face of affliction.

We can examine holiness from 2 different viewpoints - positional and practical. Our **positional** holiness comes from what Christ has done for us on the cross, cleansing from sin. **Practical** holiness is our determination to live a pure life with the help of the Holy Spirit. It is the fruit of loving Christ and His Word.

Holiness is not perfectionism. Perfectionism can be defined as striving to be holy in your own strength - a dangerous trap that causes confusion, frustration and doubt which many holiness movement teachers have fallen into. Dr Ironside is an example - “What made my distress more poignant was the knowledge that I was not the only sufferer. . . . I began to see what a string of derelicts this holiness teaching left in its train.”

Holiness is divinely imparted; it cannot be generated on the human plain.

Perfected holiness is our final state in heaven, with glorified bodies & sinless character. **1 John 3:2**

Our Motivation

Holiness is being dedicated or consecrated to God. **Lev. 21:44-45** *“I am the Lord your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy; for I am holy. . . . For I am the Lord, who brought you up from the land of Egypt, to be your God; thus **you shall be holy for I am holy.**”* - Our main motivation

1 Pet. 1:14-16 *As obedient children do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behaviour; because it is written, ‘**You shall be Holy, for I am Holy.**’*

The taint of the world continually tries to make our passion for Holiness dull. We are in a battle.

Many professing Christians are so focused on what they think God should *give* them that they've lost sight of what He wants to *make* them. They've exchanged what they can *become* for what they can *get*. (McBride)

"All through the Word of God exhortations to holiness appear. They are not sporadic, occasional, or tempered by doubt concerning God's ability to do this thing in us." (W.Sangster)

How can we build holiness into our lives?

1) Relationship with God starts with "**I repent of anything and everything that is an offence to You**" This is the only attitude worth having on this issue. We must seek God in the detail not just major issues. **Jesus is in the detail.** Don't say I will ignore this little issue over there - I have not got the strength - seek God for the strength. (Also we must not be so concerned with the detail that we miss the major issues - eg the Pharisees tithing herbs).

2) Ask for help **Rom 8:13** - *if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.* This verse clearly shows us that we should rely on the Holy Spirit to help us.

Eph 3:15 Paul prays that "*He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man*" so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. - Christ is holy.

3) Remember holiness is not perfection. Holiness can be achieved without perfection - even in our weakness we can be holy because it comes from the Lord. It depends on us in that we must have our attitude right before God, we must be obedient - God will not tell us to do things that we can not achieve. His goals may be difficult to achieve but they are achievable. We must aim for perfection but not be dependent on it.

4) Be determined to honour God at all times "**whether life is sweet or sour, at all times and in all places I will honour the name of the Lord**". Satan tries to stir up strife against God and he hates to hear the praises of God - spending regular time in personal and corporate worship helps us build holy lives. To be still and know that I am God should be part of our worship.

5) Discern Satan's traps.

2 Cor 2:11 "*I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.*"

Satan knows our weakness and will use people to try and make us sin. We need to be wise to negative situations and what people are doing and the enemies motivations behind what people are doing.

6) Holiness comes through spending time with God.

Exodus 34:29 *As Moses descended from Mount Sinai—with the two tablets of the testimony in his hands as he descended the mountain—he did not realize that **the skin of his face shone** as a result of his speaking with the LORD*

7) Fix your hope in Him

1 John 3:2 *Beloved, now we are children of God, and **it has not appeared as yet what we shall be**. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is. And **everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself**, just as He is pure.*

Phil. 3:20-21 *Our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; **who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory**, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.*

How can you improve the level of purity in your life?

How can you inspire holiness in others?