

Holiness Pt 3 Live in holiness

This is our third teaching on the topic of holiness. In our previous study we covered three points:- (i) Jesus- the Son of God was known by the unclean spirit as “the Holy One of God”, (ii) The Spirit of God is given to believers and is also known as the Holy Spirit, and (iii) The law of God is holy.

In this study we will cover an additional three points: (I) our standing before God is holy, (ii) we are to be holy as God is holy, (iii) we are reconciled to the Father through the blood of Christ on the cross- in one body through His death to present you holy and unblamable in his sight.

The Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. Our standing before God is: holy

* We are His workmanship created in Christ unto good works, framed together unto an holy temple in the Lord

[10] For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

[16] And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

[21] In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord

(Eph 2:10,16,21)

* We are imputed with His righteousness

“But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption” (1 Cor 1: 30).

Therefore, we are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy acceptable to God which is our reasonable service- Rom 12:1- “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service”.

We are sanctified by the blood of Jesus

“Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate” (Heb 13:12). See also 1Cor 1: 2.

2. We are to be holy as God as holy

[14] As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

[15] But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

[16] Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. (1 Pet.1: 14-16)

We are to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect

“Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect. (Matt.5: 48).

We are to be holy and without blame before Him in love

“According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love” (Eph.1: 4).

We are the temple of God which is holy

[16] Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? [

17] If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are. (1 Cor.3:16, 17).

3. We are reconciled to the Father through the blood of Christ on the cross- in one body through His death to present you holy and unblamable in his sight

[19] For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;

[20] And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

[21] And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

[22] In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouable in his sight: (Col.1: 19-22).

We preach Christ warning every man that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus

[27] To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

[28] Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus (Col.1: 27, 28).

The church is sanctified with the washing of water by the word, that Christ would present to himself a glorious church- holy.

[25] Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

[26] That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

[27] That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. (Eph.5: 25-27).

An illustration to help apply the teaching to our life today.

A quote from *Kept Pure: a case for the preservation of God's interpretive methods* (in draft)-

“Holiness Churches – Whosoever repents and believes in the Lord Jesus Christ is justified, and saved from the dominion of sin. Believe there is a second work of grace, “entire sanctification”. First preached by John Wesley.” (Page 155).

“Believers must become sanctified. Sanctification involves an act of divine grace in which human beings become freed from original sin and are made holy. In sanctification, the actual inclination towards practicing sin is removed from the believer.” (Page 156)

But not so, according to the scriptures-

[8] If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

[9] If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

[10] If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us (1 John 1:8-10).

On the basis of the commandment to be perfect- Matthew 5:48- “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect”- there are many which have been beguiled into believing the holiness doctrine.

Questions to think about.

i) If all sin, and therefore are none sinless (apart from our Saviour), how does any believer live in holiness?

ii) What are the consequences of NOT living in holiness?

Our answers from the scriptures.

A believer behaves themselves holily- (1 Thes.2: 10 “Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe”), when they:

* Yield their members servants to righteousness unto holiness

“I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness” (Rom.6: 19).

ii) The consequence of disobedience (not abstaining from fornication), of not repenting

[1] It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.

[5] To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. (1 Cor.5: 1, 5).

As we see in 1 Corinthians 5 they are handed over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved (clearly not in hell!)

“If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are” (1 Cor.3: 17).

Let us remember to never yield our members unto sin, but yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness. To the glory of God.