

THE HOLY WAY

WHAT IS HOLINESS?

The state of being holy.

"A life of holiness and total devotion to God"

FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURE

LEVITICUS 20:26 “AND YOU SHALL BE HOLY TO ME; FOR I THE LORD AM HOLY, AND HAVE **SEPARATED** YOU FROM THE PEOPLES, THAT YOU SHOULD BE MINE.”

POINT 1 – Holiness means we are separated from the world. We have been set apart for God’s purposes.

SCRIPTURES

I PETER 1:14-19 – When you buy something, don’t you have a right to use it for your purposes? You paid for it after all. God paid for us. We accepted Jesus and now He owns us. We have given our lives to Him to use for His purposes. He needs us to be holy so the world can see HIM.

I JOHN 3:6-10 – The key word in this whole passage is **ABIDES**. What does it mean to abide in Christ Jesus?

The word "abide" basically means "to remain." Every Christian remains inseparably linked to Christ in all areas of life. We depend on Him for grace and power to obey. We look obediently to His Word for instruction on how to live. We offer Him our deepest adoration and praise and we submit ourselves to His authority over our lives. In short, Christians gratefully know Jesus Christ is the source and sustainer of their lives.

I PETER 2:9 – We are made a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a dedicated nation! We are just as set apart as Israel was back in the days of Moses. When He wants to use someone or a body of believers, He must have their commitment to Him. He must have them in the state of being holy. He needs sold out people who are starving for His Presence and His Word and His glory.

I PETER 2:24 – Jesus personally paid for us by taking our sins into His own body on that Cross. He purchased the honor and privilege for us to live a holy life in reality. He paved the way for us to have victory in this life through our relationship with the Father through Him! Jesus paid for OUR way into The Holy Way! What an honor! What a privilege! To be called to holiness!

POINT 2 – Holiness demonstrates itself in our behavior. When we are abiding in the Holiness of God, our lifestyles are going to show it, our words are going to show it and our good works are going to show it.

SCRIPTURES

I THESSALONIANS 4:7-8 – We are to consecrate or to dedicate ourselves to being holy because He is HOLY. The Spirit is holy, chaste and pure. We cannot mix our lifestyles with the world's lifestyles. Even as HE has set us apart for Himself, we are supposed to set ourselves apart from the world in our decisions in actions, thoughts and words.

ISAIAH 35:8-10 – The Holy Way. Uncleaness and holiness are like light and darkness. You are either holy or you are unclean. Suppose you have a big tall glass of crystal clear pure cold water ready to drink and someone puts one drop of mud in the glass? Is it still crystal clear pure cold water ready to drink? NO! It's now unclean and can't be used for the original purpose!

I CORINTHIANS 6:9-20 – It is impossible to be holy and morally bankrupt at the same time. When you let sin into your walk with God, you are on dangerous ground. Because Jesus purchased you back from darkness, your body is NOT your own anymore! Your whole being belongs to God!

I JOHN 5:3-4 – If we declare that we love God, we will obey His commands to us because Jesus said “if you love Me you will OBEY Me!” What are His commands? The standards He has set forth in His Word. There are standards of behavior that we as Christians have to adhere to. God does NOT wink at our sin! There isn't a person on this planet that is so special to God that He will overlook a sinful lifestyle. **BOTTOM LINE: IF WE SAY WE LOVE HIM, WE WILL OBEY HIM IN OUR WORDS AND OUR ACTIONS AND WE WILL LOVE OUR ENEMIES AS MUCH AS WE LOVE OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES.**

POINT 3 – Holiness permeates our thoughts when it manifests fully. When we are abiding in Him, then our thoughts will turn to righteous thing, true things and pure things. We will guard what we see and what we hear and what we speak.

PHILIPPIANS 4:8 – The battle is in the mind. It takes a conscious effort to think and speak positive things! Before we know it we are declaring ourselves poor, miserable and sick! Your words agree with God or the devil...one or the other. **YOU CANNOT EVER BE HOLY IF YOU LET THE WORLD INTO YOUR EYE GATE AND YOUR EAR GATE. BECAUSE YOUR THOUGHTS ARE CENTERED ON WHAT YOU SEE AND HEAR.**

III JOHN 1:11 – We will imitate what we think on and that is based on what we hear and see. Like video games. How many times have we seen people who acted out evil based on video games? What they saw filled their minds with evil thoughts which turned to evil motives and finally to act them out. Same thing with pornography. Ted Bundy started viewing porn and eventually led him to kill dozens of young women before he was stopped. Abide in the Lord and in His Word and His ways and thoughts will fill your mind with His peace!

POINT 4 – Holiness is well pleasing to God! He loves obedience and He loves those who diligently seek Him out and choose to please Him in word, thought and deed!

SCRIPTURES

ROMANS 12:1-2 – Living holy before God is a sacrifice. It's giving up the "ME." We live in an age of entitlement mentality. Well God, what are you going to do for me today? When instead we should be asking Him "What can I do to glorify Your Name today Father? What can I do to advance Your Kingdom? Who can I bless today Father? Send me! The Bible tells us to present our physical bodies to Him as a sacrifice. I have to say that this is NOT just referring to sexual immorality. It's also presenting our bodies fully lined up with His will. Healthy and strong, and disease-free. As believers we are supposed to represent God in every area. He wants us to be as physically fit as possible given our current age and circumstances. Remember this: our decisions today result in our problems tomorrow. OR our decisions today result in our victories tomorrow! Our bodies belong to Him. If He says "get healthy" He is not going to change His mind about it in 2 weeks when we fall off the wagon.

I PETER 2:12 – Exhibiting holiness in our lives encourages the lost to come to Jesus. We don't have to beat them over the head with the Bible...we show them the strength and character of God through our holiness of abiding in Him. They see us riding on top of the waves in times of trouble instead of cowering in fear. Our faith in Him and our trust in Him causes us to ride above all the waves and storms of life. When it is heart knowledge and not head knowledge, people know it's real...and they want it too.

Hebrews 12:10 – No matter how hard we try, we are going to fall short sometimes. But our heavenly Father will bring us back into line with Him, so that we can continue to abide in Him and be sharers in His holiness! The fruit of righteousness comes from the discipline of the Lord. Cherish the times of discipline! You know you are much loved by the Creator of the Universe!

Colossians 1:22 – Jesus Christ intends to present each one of us as holy and faultless and irreproachable in His Father's presence! That is His goal for each one of us. Abiding in Him will bring these traits to the forefront in your life!

POINT 5 – Holiness comes in that intimate relationship with the Father through His Son Jesus Christ. There is no shortcut to holiness. It is line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little. Time is the price we pay for holiness. Time spent in His Word. Time spent in His presence. Time spent praying for others and doing good to friends and enemies alike. Time glorifying Him in praise and worship.

SCRIPTURES

II CORINTHIANS 7:1 – When you begin to spend time with the Father, HE WILL BEGIN TO CLEAN YOU UP! He is going to challenge wrong thinking and attitudes. He is going to confront known and unknown sin in your life. He is going to turn up His refiner's fire and get all the impurities out of you so that He can use you in these last days to His glory and to populate the kingdom with SOULS!

HEBREWS 12:14 – It's a pursuit. This means it is a decision followed by a committed action to accomplish it. To strive means it is concentrated effort behind the task. Translate this back to our individual lives is to make the decision to seek God in praise, worship and prayer and fellowship as often as possible whether it be once a day, three times a day or once a week. But it's a commitment made and kept by you and I.

II TIMOTHY 2:21 – Not only is it a decision to pursue God in an intimate relationship, but we have to make the decision to abandon our current unclean ways. We have to do whatever it takes to disentangle ourselves from the sin of the world. We have to come out from among them, no matter how painful that may be. Why is this so important? So God can make you and I a vessel of honor to be used for His purposes! He washes His dishes folks! He's not going to use a dirty vessel to accomplish one single thing!

I THESSALONIANS 5:23 – We aren't in this alone. Once we make the decision to come out from the world, He steps in to begin the cleansing process. He does the sanctifying; He does the consecrating and He is FAITHFUL to keep us until that Great Day!

CONCLUSION

Holiness is a decision

Holiness is a commitment

Holiness is day by day decisions for Him

Holiness looks outside of our own wants and needs and into the Face of Jesus Christ.

Holiness seeks to glorify God through every area of our lives.

I WANNA BE JUST LIKE MY ABBA FATHER!