

## **Living a Holy Life**

Romans 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."

This is the final lesson in this series, but it is just the beginning of living a fulfilling life in Christ. This lesson series has been entitled "The Search for a New Beginning" because that is what this has been. If you have fulfilled all the lessons up to this point, then you are truly beginning a new life in Christ.

There are two areas of holiness for a human being who desires to be pleasing unto God.

1. Inward holiness
2. Outward holiness

The scripture we will use to base this evidence on is found in 1 Samuel 16:7, "But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart."

This is an important scripture for us to look at because it sets the standard for who we are in Christ. We need to be pleasing to God through the heart, all the while setting an example for mankind to see God in us.

So let us dive into this lesson with a look at the inward holiness of man.

### **Inward Holiness**

We could refer to this as a spiritual holiness. A righteousness of heart and soul is needed to be pleasing to God.

Luke 6:45 "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh."

Psalm 15:1-2 "A Psalm of David. LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart."

The heart of man is the seat of the emotions. That is why we say things like: "I love you with all of my heart," and "His heart was not in it." God needs our heart so that He can use us for His glory.

The heart of man can be a scary place without God. Jeremiah 17:9 says "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

We must be filled with the spirit of Jesus Christ in order for our heart to be pure and holy. Without Him, we are empty and full of deceit. So to be filled with His spirit gives us an inward holiness.

- Psalm 51:10 "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."
- Ezekiel 18:31 "Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit:"
- Ezekiel 36:26-27 "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them."
- Jeremiah 31:33 "...After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people."

We can only be holy and pleasing unto God through being filled with His righteousness.

- Philippians 1:11 "Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God."

We are called to be His people and are required to be separated from this world. Having the spirit of Christ within us makes us WANT to be separate.

- 1 Peter 2:9 "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:"
- 1 Thessalonians 2:12 "That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory."

Walking worthy of God is fulfilling what he requires of us. The requirement is simply:

- 1 Peter 1:16 "Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."

### **Outward Holiness**

Since you are holy on the inside, it will also reflect on the outside through our dress, actions and words. This could be known as physical holiness.

1 Peter 1:15 "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;"

- We need to do a quick a word study here to help you understand this scripture.
- The word "conversation" here does not mean what we use it for in today's language.
- It is literally "behavior or lifestyle." It is not only what we say, it is how we live.

The world we live in today does not like to hear this because it disrupts their pleasures and personal desires. Being pleasing unto God will definitely disrupt your worldly living.

This is why living for God takes a desire and consecration. You will never make it with a half-heartedness toward God or His righteousness.

The old saying is still true, *If He cannot be Lord of all, He will not be Lord at all!!*

The Pentecostal lifestyle is not an old-fashioned way that is meant to demean our women or empower our men. It is the Biblical approach to being pleasing unto God.

There are three main areas in outward holiness that is Biblically important:

1. Body
2. Actions
3. Words

Let us take a look at a few of the physical standards of holiness that we know are in the Bible.

### *Body*

Deuteronomy 22:5 "The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God."

- Clothing

1 Corinthians 11:14-15 "Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering."

- Hair

Hebrews 10:22 "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water."

- Personal cleanliness
- Spiritual cleanliness

### *Actions*

James 4:17 "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

Galatians 5:19-21 "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

### *Words*

James 3:10 "Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be."

Psalm 63:11 "But the king shall rejoice in God; every one that sweareth by him shall glory: but the mouth of them that speak lies shall be stopped."

Revelation 21:8 "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

We are to maintain a holy life after being filled with the spirit of Jesus Christ. To walk uprightly before Him and be pleasing to Him in "all manner of conversation."

As Paul encouraged the Romans in 12:1 which we have already read earlier, "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."

That word "reasonable" comes from the word "logos" meaning "of the word." It is our Biblical responsibility to be pleasing unto God and keep our "bodies," not just our spirit, holy.

The world today wants to maintain a spiritual walk without conditioning the body, and this is unbiblical in every way.

The only way man will ever see the holiness of God is through us because they can only see the "body."

Hebrews 12:14 puts it plainly, "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:"