

20170226 Holiness

Introduction

Talk to us about the biblical principle of holiness. We talk about God being holy, people living holy lives, certain places as holy places, etc.

What do we mean by holy or holiness?

Am I holy? are you holy? is God holy?

Holiness vs Morality

For many holiness is equivalent to morality.

If I live a moral life am I living a holy life?

Holiness is constant, morality changes w/culture.

We have a lot of liberal thinking in society today.

Liberal though appeals to man's will- we can help

ourselves, we can do better, man is good-

-problems we face- because of environment,

unjust gov't- never because-something in man.

Historical Christianity- always been rooted in ...

>idea- man's tendency- towards selfishness

>idea- man needs a Savior-cannot save self

>saving acts of Christ's death/resurrection

There is liberal teaching today that reduces

Christianity to a set of religious principles

based on the moral teaching of Jesus.

The heart of the Christian faith is more than, and other than the moral teachings of Jesus, as important as they are.

Consider King David- colorful figure in the Bible.

The Bible says this about David ...

Acts 13:22 "... He raised up David to be their king, concerning whom He also testified and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My heart, who will do all My will.' (1 Sam 13.14)

This is- incredible testimony for any man to have-
a testimony I would like for my own life.

What is God's testimony about my/your life?

>am I/you a man after God's heart?

>do I/you do ALL of God's will for my life?

And yet David, when he saw Bathsheba bathing
on a roof top, slept w/her- had- husband killed.

David had some serious moral failings and yet

God said David was a man after His heart.

Warning: do not do what David did and expect to
get away with it before God- bad plan-lost son.

King David's moral behavior was not always

"correct" but his heart longed for God.

So how does God and the Bible view holiness?

Holiness

**Ex 15:11 "Who is like You among the
gods, O Lord? Who is like You, majestic
in holiness, Awesome in praises,
working wonders?"**

Holiness-not just an attribute of God- who He is.

**Lev 19:2 "Speak to all the congregation
of the sons of Israel and say to them,
'You shall be holy, for I the Lord your
God am holy.**

What does this mean- how am I to be holy?

**Lev 20:26 'Thus you are to be holy to Me,
for I the Lord am holy; and I have set you
apart from the peoples to be Mine.**

Here we begin- get a picture- what holiness is ...

For people in the Ancient Near East ...

**The word holy was used to express
membership and proximity to the realm
of the divine. (Lexham Bible Dictionary)**

Holiness indicates a belongingness or membership within the realm of God.

Holiness- also used in the sense of consecration.

Consecration- declaring something holy- setting apart something/someone for God's purposes.

A consecrated people are- people- belong to God

Holiness speaks of God being devoted to His people and His people being devoted to Him.

Holiness speaks more of devotion than moral purity- devotion to God leads to moral purity.

Moral purity w/o devotion- not holiness- legalism.

Holiness- not how I behave but who I belong to ...

1 Cor 6:19–20

¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

²⁰For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

We are God's possession, His vessel, created for His holy and divine purposes.

Ex: In ancient Rome there were slave markets where people purchased slaves. Those slaves became their masters property to do with as the pleased.

A holy God, through the blood of Christ, has purchased a people for Himself- His property.

Here is the point ...

If you see yourself holy because you live morally- you can still live independent of God and simply behave good outwardly.

This leads us to believe- because we behave good/moral- we are acceptable to God- false.

ie. God told Isaiah- go naked- 3 yrs- sounds immoral- but- doing what God said (Isa 20.1-4).

To be acceptable to God or to be holy is to ...

>receive- work of Jesus Christ on the cross,

>recognize our need of a Savior, and

>to be born-again into the KofG,

>with a resulting change of behavior.

Holiness leads to-change in behavior-that change is obedience to God/Word out of devotion.

We emphasize God as Savior but sometimes we neglect God as Lord- they go together ...

Lord (master) declares the position He holds in our life, whereas Savior describes the work He's done for us. We cannot partake of the benefit of His work unless we come under His position as Lord and King. John Bevere

We are called to be pure/moral, but- greater call-set ourselves apart/fully available to God.

Holiness is separation from something (sin), but it is first and foremost separation to something (God).

Separation from something is good, but if you are not separated to something- gone nowhere.

What makes us useful to God is not following rules, but obeying the voice of God.

Do not get me wrong- we need to live a moral life, but we do not live a moral life to be acceptable

To live morally w/o devotion to God-I can continue to do what I want and govern my own life.

There are some very moral believers that terribly misrepresent God because they are still doing there own thing in the name of God.

It can be a terrible thing when a man identifies his aims with the will of God instead of submitting his aims to that will (William Barclay).

Many Christians identify themselves w/Christ w/o making Him their Lord- submitting to Him.

1 Peter 1:14–15

¹⁴As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance,

¹⁵but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior;

We behave like God because we now have the very nature/life of God living in us.

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature ...

Doing Christian works- not enough for heaven ...

Matthew 7:22–23

²²“Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’

²³“And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.’

Lawlessness- to live independent of God even as we identify with God- even as we live morally.

Obedience is not just living by some moral code, it is having a heart ruled by the King through the blood of Christ.

Holiness in Everyday Life

How can we be faithful to God in today's chaotic culture- for many believers- no longer about ...

>pleasing God, but God pleasing me

>making sacrifices, but God making me comfortable

>dying to self, but fulfilling my desires

We live in a time-people-driven by their emotions.

We live in a post-rational culture that cannot understand truth, because we have been taught that truth is what we feel.

My heart says it is true, therefore it must be true.

What we say we believe is important, but so is how we live- does it reflect what we believe?

We must develop an awareness of God's presence in every area of our lives.

Instead of running from something bad we must run towards something good and holy.

Heb 12.14 Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification (holiness) without which no one will see the Lord.

No holiness equals no seeing the Lord!

Only those who walk in holiness can see God and experience His presence.

Jn 14.21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."

Jesus discloses Himself to the obedient (Lord).

Paul quotes God's words to Moses ...

2 Cor 6.17 "Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate," says the

Lord. “And do not touch what is unclean; And I will welcome you.

God welcoming us is conditional, not automatic. Come away from the unholy, run towards- holy.

Summarize

In the OT- two dimensions of holiness ...

1. With respect to God ...

holiness is the nature of God

It is who He is, His very essence.

2. With respect to mankind ...

holiness is dependent upon proximity or relationship to a Holy God

In the NT ... holiness speaks of ...

1. separation from everything impure (sin)

2. separation to God- set apart- His property.

Being under grace is not license to sin- we are called to live godly lives, but- our greater ... calling is to make ourselves available to God- out of this comes holy behavior.

Repentance

Matt 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach and say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Repentance- an inward turning from sin to God.

A turning away from something and a turning towards something.

Many things can lead us to repentance ...

>difficulties/distress

>guilt/shame

>promptings of the Lord

>conviction through God’s Word

Repentance involves the ...

conviction/confession/pardoning of sin

2 Sam 12:13 Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.” And Nathan said to David, “The Lord also has taken away your sin; you shall not die.

Today this is the hope we have in Christ- we receive forgiveness of sin through His blood.

1 Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Two thieves on the cross- one arrogant, not willing to take responsibility for his sin.

The other, humble, acknowledging his guilt ...

Lk 23:43 And He said to him, “Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.”

God is calling us to repentance, to giving ourselves fully to God, and living godly lives.

Ministry time of repentance

(Ministry Team on one side, other side open)

Opening Thought

Eph 3.8 To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ,

God commissioned Paul to preach about the ...

>unfathomable riches

>unsearchable riches

>endless treasures

>unending, boundless, exhaustless riches

All of this is available to every believer.

This is God’s purpose for every believer!

Bible Verses on Sin ...

Romans 6:12–18

¹²Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, ¹³and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

¹⁴For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

¹⁵What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be!

¹⁶Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?

¹⁷But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed,

¹⁸and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

Rom 12:1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

1 Pet 2:24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

2 Corinthians 5:14–15

¹⁴For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died;

¹⁵and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

Col 3:5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.

1 Peter 4:1–2

¹Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

²so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God