



FIRM FOUNDATION Series
Attributes of Holiness Part 1

God Has Called Us to Holiness

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

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

2 Corinthians 6:17 *Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.*

Holiness is Essential to Our Salvation

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

1 John 2:15 *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

Holiness Defined

“Holy in both biblical languages means separated and set apart for God, consecrated and made over to Him. In its application to people...the word implies both devotion and assimilation; devotion in the sense of living a life of service to God; assimilation in the sense of imitating, conforming to and becoming like the God one serves.” -*Rediscovering Holiness*, J.I. Packer

Holiness has two components:

- Assimilating the things of God into your life by imitating and conforming to His holiness
- Devoting one’s life to serving God and His Kingdom

**Note: Holiness and righteousness are most often used interchangeably throughout Scripture.*

Holiness is Purposed to Please God

- Jesus rebuked the supposed “holiness” of the Pharisees because it was done to impress men. He said they would have no heavenly reward for such behavior. (See Matthew 6)
- Jesus Christ purchased us with His blood, therefore we belong to Him not ourselves. He is our Kinsman Redeemer.

1 Corinthians 6:19 *What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*

1 Corinthians 6:20 *For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

Inward Holiness Will Produce an External Witness

The New Testament writers often describe the Holy Ghost as a fire that dwells and burns inside of us and just as a strong fire that begins inside a home it will soon be evident to anyone outside the home because it cannot be contained.

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.*

Romans 12:2 *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

- Outward holiness, the lifestyle of words, actions and appearance is worthless without inward holiness.
- Outward holiness without inward holiness is not righteousness and often breeds self-righteousness of which Christ abhorred.
- Jesus Christ came not to destroy but to fulfill, to give us a living model of the Old Testament Law (Ten Commandments and more).
- In fact, in Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount he expanded the Ten Commandments to cover the sins of the heart that were not exposed by outward conduct.

Titus 3:5 *Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;*

Titus 3:6 *Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;*

Titus 3:7 *That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

Titus 3:8 *This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.*

Works Do Not Bring Salvation - They Are a Product of Salvation

We could never do enough good works, nor display enough holiness to earn salvation. However once we receive the gift of salvation we naturally produce good works and display inward and outward holiness.

James 2:18 *Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.*

Matthew 7:17 *Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.*

Matthew 7:18 *A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.*

Titus 2:11 *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,*

Titus 2:12 *Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;*

Process of Holy Living

2 Corinthians 7:1 *Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

The use of the word “perfecting” communicates that holy and righteous living is an on going process. The weakness of human flesh does not excuse us from this pursuit of holiness, nor excuse sin (Romans 6:1-2). We must strive to live a life that is Christ-like.

Growing in Righteousness Is Not:

- A Place of Arrival
- A State of Perfection
- A Place of Retirement

Jesus is recorded twenty times in the Gospels saying, “Follow me.”

“A disciple of Jesus Christ is someone who progressively and systematically rearranges his life to the end of being Christ-like.” -Dallas Willard

Repeating Steps of Righteous Living

- Putting off Sin
- Putting on Christ (Further study: See Ephesians 4)

Holiness Must Be Applied To:

- Heart

Ephesians 4:31 *Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:*

Ephesians 4:32 *And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

Psalms 19:14 *Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.*

- Thoughts

Proverbs 23:7 *For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:*

Philippians 4:8 *Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.*

- Eyes

Psalms 101:3 *I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.*

- Tongue

James 1:26 *If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.*

- Actions

1 Thessalonians 4:4 *That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;*

1 Thessalonians 4:5 *Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:*

1 Thessalonians 4:6 *That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.*

- Appearance

1 Peter 3:3 *Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;*

Levels of Convictions

- I. **Biblical Convictions:** Convictions against things the Bible calls sin. They are not subject to time or culture, they are absolute and require no discussion. They can be seen plainly in Scripture and to go against them would be sin.

1 Corinthians 6:9 *Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,*

1 Corinthians 6:10 *Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.*

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.*

10 Commandments (Exodus 20)

2. **Pastoral/Principle Convictions:** Judgments made by your Pastor and spiritual authority to whom your Pastor is submitted. These judgments are made through prayer and fasting because God has charged our spiritual authority with the duty of watching for our souls. They are not written verbatim in Scripture but they are grounded in Biblical principles and taken indirectly from Scripture. In some instances these convictions are subject to time and culture.

1 Chronicles 12:32 *And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do*

Hebrews 13:17 *Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.*

1 Samuel 15:22 *And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.*

1 Corinthians 11:1 *Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.*

1 Corinthians 11:2 *Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you.*

Hebrews 12:1 *Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,*

Exodus 19 (Further study: Read and understand context)

3. **Personal Convictions:** Disciplines you have developed personally through your relationship with God. They are usually not disciplines against sin but block us from a path that leads to sin. They are designed to protect us in an area that we are weak. They are beneficial for you but not necessarily for others. We are not to judge others with our personal convictions nor are we to lecture others about them.

1 Corinthians 6:12 *All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.*

1 Corinthians 8:9 *But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to them that are weak.*

1 Corinthians 8:10 *For if any man see thee which hast knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols.*

(Further study: See 1 Corinthians 8:9-13)

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

Holiness Is the Power of Being Drawn Out Unto God's Calling and Purpose

John 17:15 *I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.*

John 17:16 *They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.*

1 Peter 2:9 *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;*