

## What is holiness?

In Strong's Concordance, *holy* means *purity from defilement*. *Sanctify* is from the same word, meaning, *make holy*. It is *set apart; separated to God and from sin*.

I John 5:19 (TLB) "We are children of God, but the whole rest of the world around us is under the power of the devil."

Col. 1:13 (NKJ) He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love."

Phil. 2:14-15, "Do all things without complaining or disputing that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world."

From only these three verses we see that there are two groups of people on the earth; those that belong to God, and those who don't. And there are very many verses that tell us to be different. But please understand that **holiness is a heart condition first**; our attitudes and words. When I was growing up, the Christians around me thought that they must wear out-dated clothes, no make-up, and follow a long list of things we don't do, but they still couldn't get along with each other!

## How important is it?

I Pet. 1:14-16, "...as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, **you also be holy in all your conduct**, because it is written, '**Be holy for I am holy.**'"

Heb. 12:14, "Pursue peace with all people, **and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.**"

II Pet. 3:11, (Speaking of the end of the world) "Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in **holy conduct** and godliness."

## Is it all up to God?

We're sanctified by God, Jude 1; by the blood of Jesus, Heb.10:10, 29, 13:12; by the Holy Spirit, I Pet. 1:2; by the Word, John 17:17; and by faith, Acts 26:18.

## Do we have a part?

Col. 1:22-23, "He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy and blameless, and above reproach in His sight, **if indeed you continue** in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel ..."

II Cor. 6:14-7:1, "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers, for what fellowship has righteousness with

lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with (the devil)? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? **For you are the temple of the living God**. As God has said, 'I will dwell in them, and walk among them; I will be their God, and they shall be My people.'

"Therefore, 'come out from among them and **be separate**,' says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters,' says the Lord Almighty. Therefore, having these promises, beloved, **let us cleanse ourselves** from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, **perfecting holiness** in the fear of God."

II Tim.2:19-22, "Nevertheless, the solid foundation of the Lord stands, having this seal, the Lord knows those who are His. And let everyone who names the name of the Lord **depart from iniquity** (sin). But in a great house, there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some for honor and some for dishonor. Therefore, **if anyone cleanses himself** (from sin) he will be a vessel for honor, **sanctified (holy)** and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. Flee youthful lusts, but **pursue righteousness**, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a **pure heart**."

## How do we do that?

I John 1:9, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

**The secret is to admit and confess sin immediately.** Here is a testimony:

My husband T.A. was working for a company that fixed large, electric motors. He was called to work on one at a sewage treatment plant in San Jose, CA. While there, he had to use the restroom, and he found a Playboy magazine in the stall. He picked it up and glanced through it quickly and put it down. The restroom was finished in white tile and was spotless, but he said he felt like he'd been dunked in the sewage! He cried out to God, “What do I do?” God answered him (in his thoughts) “Confess it and go on.” He was incredulous, “That’s it?”

On the drive back to the shop, T.A. said he still felt dirty. He asked God about it and God said, “That’s just guilt that Satan is trying to put on you. Praise Me that you are forgiven.”

## It’s a growing thing

The more time you spend in the **Word** and in **prayer**, the faster you will grow. This time spent with God is abiding, daily getting charged with power to live right. If you are having trouble with

quitting a sin, then this is your answer! Know too, that the further along you are in this, the less you can get by with.

John 15:4-5, “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

## Is it worth it?

As long as you are spending regular times with God, the Holy Spirit will be working in you to make you into the person God designed you to be. **He has a wonderful life planned just for you.** This isn’t just to get you to heaven; it’s for here on earth!

III John 2, “Beloved, I wish above all things that you would prosper and be in health, just like your soul prospers.”

Eph. 2:10 (Amp.) “For we are God’s own handiwork ...taking paths which He prepared ahead of time that we should walk in them, living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live.”

Jer. 29:11, “I know the thoughts and plans I have toward you,” says the Lord, “thoughts of *peace* (Shalom also translated *prosperity*) and not of evil, to give you a hope and a future.”

# HOLINESS SIMPLY EXPLAINED



**A mini Bible Study  
By Cheryl Boone**