

Apostolic Women: Developing a Passion for Holiness

Is What's On the Outside, the Same as What's On the Inside?

*God is Holy and His holiness is reflected in His nature,
His works, and His people.*

Hebrews 12:14

*"Follow peace with all men, and holiness without which no
man shall see the Lord"*

Holiness and sin cannot thrive in our lives. One or the other must die.

If we allow weeds of sin to grow up unchecked in our *hearts* and *minds* and *behavior*, the holy life of Christ within us will be choked out.

We must be willing to eliminate influences that could fuel unholy thoughts or behavior and thereby lead us into sin.

We should maintain lives that can be "toured" by outsiders at any time, without embarrassment.

A commitment to holiness means having a life that is always "ready for company" and open for inspection – a life that can stand up to scrutiny – not just in the obvious things, but in the hidden places where most might not think to look.

When we develop a *passion* for holiness we will have an *intense desire* to live holy.

Matching the Inside and Outside

Many Christians have learned how to keep up a holy appearance. They know how to look and act "clean" when they are at church or want to leave a good impression. But, here's the real test: what would others discover if they took a closer look at your life? What would they find if they started opening the closets and drawers of your life?

♦ Is there any hypocrisy in your life? Is what's on the outside the same as what's on the inside? Do you appear outwardly to be godly, while inwardly harboring **unholy** attitudes, thoughts, or values?

♦ Are you concerned about the inward reality of your life – that which only God can see – as you are about how you appear to others?

♦ Does profanity, unholy talk, or coarse jesting come out of your lips?

♦ Do your words encourage and build others up?

♦ Is there anything in your attitudes or outward behavior that you know is not pleasing to the Lord?

♦ Are you holding a grudge or harboring bitterness in your heart toward anyone?

- ♦ Is there anyone who has hurt or wronged you that you have not fully forgiven?
- ♦ Is your life marked by love?
- ♦ Are you walking in moral purity and freedom? Is your thought life pure?
- ♦ Do you guard your heart and your eyes from influences that might tempt you to sin morally?
- ♦ Do you have an appetite for activities you know to be sinful?
- ♦ Do you consciously seek to know and do what will please the Lord?
- ♦ Does your lifestyle mark you as a child of God?
- ♦ What about the things you read and watch and listen to when you are alone - are they *pure*, are they *lovely*, are they *holy*?
- ♦ Are you quick to obey the promptings of the Spirit through His Word and in your heart?
- ♦ Is your conduct blameless and above reproach in *every* area of your life – not by the world's standards, but by the standard of God's Word and His holiness?

Holiness is Reflected in Our Attitude

- ♦ The presence of Jesus Christ in our lives must be reflected in our attitude.
- ♦ We should purge every ungodly attitude from our heart and guard it with care for evil actions begins in the heart.

*"But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart;
and they defile the man."*

(Matthew 15:18)

Holiness is Reflected in Our Attitude

- ♦ A woman whose spirit is subjected to Christ will demonstrate *holy* actions.
- ♦ **Holiness** is a matter of the heart. But, holiness is exercised and demonstrated outwardly.

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

(2 Corinthians 6:17)

*"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."*

(2 Corinthians 7:1)

- ♦ A holy heart will manifest holy actions
- ♦ Evil thoughts produce evil actions and holy thoughts produce holy actions

How Can Apostolic Women Bridge the Gap For the Next Generation?

bridge – something that is used to close a gap

gap – a break or separation in continuity

A **generation gap** is a term used to describe the wide difference in cultural norms between members of a younger generation and their elders.

Although every generation has differences there are **imminent** dangers that faces every generation and the dangers are these:

- forgetting what God has done for previous generations;
- forgetting the apostolic principles we have been taught; and
- forgetting foundational principles we have been taught

Throughout His Word, the righteous declare that their *purpose* is to declare the glory of God to the next generation (see Psalm 71:18 and Psalm 145:4).

From these scriptures we can clearly see that each generation is called to build on the foundation left by the previous generation.

When we *actively* participate in **bridging the gap** for the next generation we will *respect* and *learn* from former generations and *teach* and *inspire* future generations.

If we are to *really* bridge the gap for the next generation we must continue to teach the principles of **holiness** to each generation. The **spiritual survival** of each generation depends on this. We must be **EXAMPLES** of holiness. God is holy and He wants his children to be holy. But, so many women are failing to live holy lives in their home (wife and mother), on their job, and in society. But, if we fail in this area what will happen to the generations that come after us? Why are we beginning to not identify with the message of **holiness**?

It is critical for apostolic women to **develop** a *passion* for holiness. If we develop a *passion* for holiness we will *strongly desire* to live a **HOLY** life and will make this a **priority** in our lives. However, if we lack a *passion* for holiness it will be evident in many ways. One way is that it will result in us rationalizing personal lifestyles that do not reflect Christ. But, if we develop a *passion* for **HOLINESS** we will exhibit *lifestyles, attitudes, and actions* that will identify with being a saved, sanctified, and filled with the Holy Ghost, apostolic woman..

Holiness is Reflected in Our Appearance

- ◆ That which begins on the inside and is manifested in our actions will also be reflected in our dress and appearance.
- ◆ God's standards of beauty are *constant* and *unchanging*. His standards produce **security** and **confidence** within a woman; she does not feel she must always try to measure up to the ideas of the world.
- ◆ God has established the principle of **modesty** to govern the apostolic women. To be modest is to be:
 - simple and not flashy
 - sober and serious
 - conform to moral standards
 - pure in thought and actions
 - proper
 - not extreme (moderate)
 - virtuous

***There is no beauty
that is more beautiful
than a woman who exhibits
God's holiness.***